Agriculture—1923.
Condition of.

General.

The Negro in Southern Agriculture

NEW YORK CITY VOGUE

How a Boy from the Farms of Dixie Views the Greatest Problem of the South

SEPTEMBER 29, 1923

By L. R. PRYOR

COMING from the South and a part of the country that is almost primitive in its methods of farming in comparison with yours, I should indeed feel embarrassed if it were my part to tell you how we farm with the idea of improving yours.

I was born and raised on a farm in the State of Tennessee and have lived there all my life with the exception of three years that I have spent at Cornell. It has been a revelation to come here to study agriculture and to see the great strides you have made along these lines and I can see now as never before that we of the South who are engaged in farming can be materially benefitted if we are only willing to admit our backwardness and to accept instruction from you who are much further advanced in the school of farming. Knowing by now that I am from the South you are perhaps wondering just how I am going to treat my subject. Having lived among and associated with negroes all my life I have learned to love them and to know that there exists among the most of you a great misunderstanding as to how we of the South feel toward the negro.

To my mind the negro problem is and always has been an agricultural one and it is my aim to show to you that the success of southern agriculture in the future is dependent upon an intelligent treatment of the negro race.

In order to understand more fully the place of the negro in our southern agriculture of the present as well as the future, it will be well to review briefly with you the history of the negro race in this country.

The first negroes were brought into this country as slaves and were sold to the New England colonists who used them for domestic servants. During the colonial period and down to the changes initiated by the invention of the cotton gin, negroes were distributed with some evenness along the Atlantic coast. Between the date of that invention and the civil war and largely as a result of the changes the cotton gin set in motion, the tendency was toward a concentration of the negroes in the great cotton growing area of the country. Negroes were found to be especially adapted to the climate and outdoor life that is associated with the growing of cotton, and now after they have had fifty years of freedom, nine-tenths of them preferred to remain in the southern States.

The far-seeing men of their time realized that the institution of slavery was wrong and a bitter civil war was fought to settle the issue. I am confident that the men in the confederate army were fighting for what they thought was right and for a good many years southern people thought they had been done a great injustice. Now that sectional differences and hatred have passed away I am sure that the southern people are glad that the confederacy lost and under no conditions would they want slavery again.

Over fifty years have passed since the Civil War was fought, yet slavery still casts a shadow. The South is backward not only along agricultural lines but in industry, thought, customs and manners.

At the end of the Civil War the negroes were freed, but I am sorry to say only in the sense that he no longer had allegiance to pay to a master. Picture him if you can without land or property of any kind, ignorant and poverty stricken, nothing of the past to cherish and with but little hope of the future. Slavery had not been kind to family life and he had not even the love of the fireside.

Did he sit down and wait to be fed by those who freed him or did he seek to destroy those who had formerly been his masters? No. He quickly realized that his success would come by beginning at the very bottom on the land and in the country where he had been found to be best adapted. There was a great temptation for the negro in the radical change from slavery to freedom to overlook the fact that he would be able to live only by the production of his hands and that prosperity and happiness were his if he only glorified and put dignity and brains into the every day occupations of life.

The greatest problem in connection with southern agriculture is the question of labor. This is due to the large size of the farms and the kind of farming practiced. Since the time of the invention of the cotton gin, the South has been largely dependent upon the growth of cotton. The South is in good spirits when the price of cotton is up, but they never seem to make any preparation for the future and one bad year throws them entirely upon the mercy of other parts of the country. A great part of the land is either rented or worked on the share crop basis, and the negro who is tenant is not allowed to grow anything else. They know how to grow cotton and nothing else, and such a thing as diversified farming or the rotation of crops is unheard of. The farmers of the South do not even grow enough vegetables to eat and it is only the large landowner who is fortunate enough to have a cow and some chickens. There is not the appearance of permanent farming that you have here, and if there are any of you who think you are having a hard time I would advise you to take a trip through the cotton belt.

We of the South have gone through an experiment of about fifty years in the handling of negroes, and we are just beginning to realize that our treatment of him has been along the wrong lines. We have thought to better ourselves by keeping the negro in ignorance and poverty, not realizing that he would either constitute one-third of the ignorance and crime of the South or one-third its intelligence and progress.

The negro was introduced in the South because of his particular fitness to the climate and I do not believe the white man is capable of doing as much work in a day under that hot sun as the negro. Southerners have a reputation of being lazy that is not wholly unwarranted, and I think that if many of you spent the summers there you would be following the shade around the tree like the rest of us.

Because of the unfair treatment that he has received and because of a lack of an equal chance of advancement, the negroes have almost deserted some of the best agricultural sections of the South. Surely the negroes cannot be blamed for leaving, but

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From a Southerner's Standpoint

IN a recent issue we published an article entitled, "How Dividends By Sitting," by William A. Flanagan, who won the first prize last winter in the Eastman Public Speaking Contest held annually at the New York State College of Agriculture.

On this page we are printing the second prize in the same contest. We thought it would be particularly interesting to our readers because it is written by a farm boy from the South, and because recently there has been a great exodus of the negroes from the South to our northern cities.

We of the South have failed to appreciate the true value of the negro and it would be well to consider for a moment his record of the past. The negro race has proved beyond a doubt that they are trustworthy, honest and law abiding. In the Civil War when the South was fighting to keep them in slavery, did they take up arms against their masters? NO. They stayed at home to till the fields, to look after the women and children, and many even followed their masters to the field of battle. Could we expect more of any people? They have cleared our forests, tilled our fields, and builded our cities without strikes or labor wars, and are we now going to show our appreciation by driving them out of the country to make way for a foreign element that will do nothing but stir up strife?

Perhaps you wonder just what the country negro of the South is like. Of all classes of negroes he is the most likable and by far the easiest to get along with. He is the most picturesque character imaginable and taken as a whole they are the happiest people on earth. Over 75 per cent of them are in the tenant class and they live from year to year in their little two-room cabins seemingly contented with only the essentials of life. They are generally very ignorant and because of this they are kept in poverty. They do not grumble about work and it is certainly a pleasant sight to see them coming from the field with a song on their lips.

I know that there exists in the North a common belief that the southern white man hates the negro, and if I do nothing more than show you that this is wrong I will be satisfied. In the rural sections of the South there is a great warmth of feeling between the white man and the negro and I was interested to read of an incident that happened in Congress the other day, when a southern congressman moved to have a statue erected in Washington in honor of the old Southern mammy. In my own family we had a negro mammy that lived with us for twenty years and when she died there were more white people present than negroes, because everyone that knew her loved her. It has never been my privilege to know anyone who lived a better life or was more thoughtful of others.

The question of social relationships always arises when the negro question is discussed. Booker T. Washington, one of the greatest members of the negro race, forever decided this issue when he said: "In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress."

It is true that in many cases the negro has been deprived of the right to vote and rarely has been able to vote intelligently. It is our duty to prepare him and give him a chance to participate in his government.

The greatest need of the negro in the South to-day is education. We of the South have thought that education would make the negro dissatisfied and unfit for work. It seems impossible to teach us that the education which will convert an ignorant and frequently criminal immigrant from southeast Europe will do the same for the negro. We have failed to realize that the educated negroes in the North and South are the ones who have the most self-respect and conscience. The first step our missionaries take in foreign fields is to educate those whom they would Christianize.

What we need is not only more and better elementary schools, but we should provide more schools for technical training so that they may learn the advantages of scientific farming or become fitted for some vocation. Teach the negro how to use his hands; give him a chance to read a daily newspaper, let him have a letter now and then from his children, and the day of assaults, lynchings, and violence will disappear.

When he proves himself capable, he should be allowed to own a piece of land, for in every case where they have had a chance to own land they have made better farmers and better citizens.

We must not fail to remember that wherever our life touches the negro we make him stronger or weaker, and that in turn he will help or hinder us. You men of New York State must remember that the backwardness of the South is your backwardness and in-so-much lowers the standards of your civilization. Man drags man down or lifts him up. I look into the past and a dream of the future arises. I see a South that has learned to appreciate the negro and has given him a chance that has so long been denied him. It is no longer a section of ignorance, and crime, and backwardness, but a country of happiness and an agricultural section second to none in the world.

AUG 6 1923

SOME FARMERS talking the other day said many darkeys had an idea that they could not do without the negro, but this year they will be convinced of their mistake. There will be more home-raised supplies in the country next winter, than since Columbus landed at Cat Island.

"Farm Tenancy"

The Institute for Research in Land Economics emerges from its studies of the 1920 census returns to report that farm tenancy in the United States increased only 1 per cent during the ten years from 1910 to 1920. Its advance during that decade was much slower than during any preceding decennial period since 1880. The institute mentions the South as registering steady increase of tenant farms during the longer interval, but notes that in the last decade seven Southern states "have had a decrease, or else practically no change in the proportion of tenants to owners."

These conclusions, based upon census statistics, run counter to the popular impression. It has been charged year in and year out that farm tenancy was increasing at a rate so rapid as to be alarming to those who believe that the widest possible diffusion of farm ownership will best promote the common weal. The percentage of tenant-farmed land is in this view disturbingly high, by the institute's own figures. For we are told that 38 per cent of the farms and 35 per cent of the improved farm acreage were operated by tenant farmers in 1920. But the increase of only 1 per cent from 1910 to 1920 reveals a marked and encouraging slow-down in its march as compared with the previous decades.

The fact that farm tenancy marked time or receded in seven Southern states during that period holds special significance. The gradual but steady decline of the one-crop system and changing economic conditions doubtless have been largely responsible for the slow-down of tenant farming in the South, and during the next ten years we are likely to witness in this section an actual decline of farm tenancy and a corresponding gain both in number and area of farms occupied and cultivated by their owners. A march-back from tenant farming will be generally welcomed. Students of farming conditions here and there over the South have predicted it with increasing confidence. The institute's figures quoted above lend support to their forecast.

CANTON GA ADVANCE
JULY 13, 1923

THEN WHAT?

A great deal of labor, both white and colored, has been forced to leave the farm in search of a livelihood. A few years ago farmers were in pretty good shape. Then the boll weevil began to come on gradually and gradually their condition grew worse, until in a few years their cash and credit was all exhausted. They had no money to start in with some other kind of crops; they had staid with cotton and the boll weevil to the very last. Now what were they to do?

Some of the white farmers went to sawmilling, and a few of the negroes found employment there, but only a few whites and blacks were needed in that limited industry. Others of the whites went to nearby towns where building was to be done, and engaged in the carpenters trade, or some other industrial line of work. This seemed to be the only hope of immediate relief and to them it was one way out of the difficulty, but to those who were already engaged in that line of work their coming meant a reduction in wages and a mass of unskilled labor to contend with.

While this was going on with the whites, the negroes were having their inning with the labor agents. These agents found the negro in distress. The landlord could not carry him any longer. In many instances he was ready to furnish him land to work, free of rent, but he could not furnish him any supplies. In this condition the labor agent finds him, and offers him flattering inducements to go North. The negro does not want to go, but there seems to be no other way to avoid starvation but go. If this is not sufficient inducement the agent, according to reports, proceeds to intimidate him with threats of the K. K. K. and the like. He soon decides that the only way of escape is that opened to him by the agent. And so for one reason and another, large numbers of negroes have flocked to Northern cities, until they are crowding in on one another to the extent that makes the situation alarming.

On reaching the destination to which the agent directed them, they found the high wages; but they found many other things they did not calculate on. They found the laborers who were already there in a sullen mood with respect to their coming. This attitude, according to reports, grows more and more threatening. They found high rents for very poor locations, in fearfully congested quarters, where according to reports disease and death is already taking a heavy toll.

The demand for all of this extra labor in the cities will soon come to an end; THEN WHAT? The farm will offer the only opportunity. Will those who went away be ablee to get back? Will they be able to supply themselves with equipment for farming? If not, then who is going to help them back and set them up to farming. Look Well To The Future.

Too much labor has been on the farm, but now it is getting too much the other way. There ought to be some way to acquire and preserve a balance. That would help to relieve both labor and prices. And over supply of labor makes wages cheap, just as an over production makes prices cheap. These are some of the problems that require expert attention. But who is equal to the task?

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Southwest Georgia Farmer and Weevil

Farmers in southwest Georgia, particularly in Doughtery, Calhoun and Early counties, are "taking a shot" at raising cotton under boll weevil conditions without using the poison methods that are so popular in Middle Georgia this year, according to a statement made by Mr. Ed Barnett, formerly of Wilkes county but who has resided in what is known as the Albany territory during the past several years, at the Washington hotel Tuesday night.

Some farmers in that section are resorting to a limited use of poison, Mr. Barnett said, but even those are doing so as a further experiment. Mr. Barnett, himself, is not using any poison at all. He does not believe the benefits to be derived will offset the cost of the poisoning. That has been the experience of many southwest Georgia farmers in late years.

Peanut Production Limited.

On the subject of the production of peanuts in his section of the state, Mr. Barnett said:

"While many south Georgia farmers are reported to have planted peanuts, a survey of the farms in my immediate section of the state will show that the number of farmers who have entered whole-heartedly into the game of peanut production is limited. Many who have tried the peanut are convinced that when everything is taken into consideration peanut production is not profitable. However, I know of one farmer, at least, who has given over his entire farm to the growing of peanuts and he seems to be doing all right with it. But, as I say, the farmers in my section are not going very strong on peanuts."

Southwest Georgia is not experiencing the negro exodus problem to anything like the extent that middle Georgia is Mr. Barnett said. Personally, the exodus of negro farm labor has been the source of no alarm to him in the past, and he anticipates no difficulty along that line, for the present, at any rate. Some of the negroes who have gone from that section of the state to northern cities have found conditions were not suitable to them and have returned to their former places and, as a rule, are better workers than before they left.

Georgia.

In Spite of "Migration"

An extended review of farm conditions in Georgia, prepared by the state agricultural commissioner, was published in Georgia newspapers last week. Georgia is listed as one of the states hardest hit by the negro migration, many thousands of negro farmers having drifted North in search of more profitable occupation. In consequence Georgia's farm labor shortage has been described as acute. Many outsiders will be agreeably surprised, therefore, by the Georgia commissioner's report that there is less idle land in the commonwealth in 1923 than there was in 1922.

In the central part of the state 30 per cent of the farm lands were idle in 1922, according to his estimate, whereas this year that section's percentage is 27 per cent. Taking the state as a whole, he reports 17 per cent of the land idle in 1923, as compared with 19 per cent in 1922.

The gain is not large, but it is striking and encouraging when one considers that it has been achieved in the face of a great scale labor exodus from the Georgia farms. The commissioner of agriculturre frankly admits that there is still a shortage of farm labor, but his showing indicates—and he asserts in so many words—that despite this handicap "Georgia's agriculture is going forward and making wonderful strides."

The advance is attributed chiefly to diversification. Though cotton remains "the major money crop of the state," boll weevil and labor shortage conditions have virtually forced larger plantings of food and other crops. Corn production is increasing, tobacco growing has developed rapidly. There is a thriving dairy industry. Net receipts from poultry will exceed $5,000,000 this year, the commissioner estimates. The value of poultry products consumed by Georgians he figures at $16,000,000, showing there is a home market to justify further expansion of that industry. Peanuts have taken rank with the state's important crops. Twelve counties are going in for pimento peppers. The Georgia peach crop brought in over $10,000,000.

Along with diversification has come the subdivision of many large farm estates into small holdings, and their sale to small farmers. The rise of co-operative farm organizations is also listed as a highly helpful factor, both in the financing of the farmer and in the marketing of his product. And so Georgia's agriculture marches forward despite the negro migration, tending to bear out the prediction of another Southern observer, recently quoted in these columns, that "good, not bad, will come to the South from the negro exodus."

THAT MEIGS FARMER.

On this page is a communication of far-reaching importance from H. G. Hastings, as chairman of the farm and marketing bureau of the chamber of commerce, touching the story of the Meigs farmer who could not sell a small lot of butter to a local merchant.

Mr. Hastings strikes the trouble right between the eyes, for there is no better illustration of the folly of haphazard marketing, and no stronger argument in favor of the impelling necessity for community co-operation, than the facts as told by the correspondent in this Meigs incident.

It is related that a farmer took a small quantity of home-made butter to town, offered it to the merchant who would not buy it, and thereby was forced to take the butter back home under the plea of "no market."

And yet there is a market for Georgia creamery butter that overwhelmingly exceeds the supply, and Georgia creamery butter, properly manufactured, packed and standardized in reality brings a premium upon the market.

The farmer in question undertook to compete singly, in an unmerchantable manner, with highly organized community marketing in other sections of Georgia, where grading, packing, trade-marking, distributing, etc., is efficiently and systematically done.

Had the farmer in question invested in a can and shipped his sour cream to one of the many creameries in Georgia he would have found his investment in a dairy cow, or a small herd, profitable.

Had the business men and farmers of the community cooperated in establishing a local creamery, or in establishing an efficient group-marketing agency for cream, without a local creamery, the troubles of this farmer would not have occurred.

Our standards of operating farms and of merchandising farm products are entirely different today from what they once were.

Once upon a time a farmer bartered his five dozen eggs, half dozen frying size chickens, little can of butter, and perhaps a coon skin, to a neighborly "general store" for a pound of coffee, some sugar and perhaps five yards of calico for the "missus." That day has passed.

Mr. Hastings covers the matter thoroughly in his communication, and it ought to stimulate every community to renewed efforts toward cooperation looking to the proper and intelligent marketing of the local farm production.

DEC 13 1923

LETTERS TO THE TELEGRAPH

The Agricultural Situation

To the Editor of The Telegraph: I am writing this letter to try and call to the attention of the press and the public facts that have been overlooked, much as has been written on the subject—the migration of the Negro from the South. One main fact is that a large per cent of white people as well as Negroes are leaving here, going North. The cause of this Northward movement dates back to the time of the advent of the boll weevil and the conditions that existed on the Southern farms at that time. As every one knows, at the time the weevil put in his appearance outside of the fruit belts and truck farms around the towns, the main crop was nothing but cotton, very few raising corn enough to do the farm; net results, no fences on any of the farms except around the lot and possibly a two- or three-strand barbed wire fence for a cow or two This having been our system for years, quite naturally we built up a cotton banking system; in other words, the farmer borrowed money in the Spring, gave his note payable in the Fall, as he knew he could sell his cotton promptly to take up his note.

As every one knows that knows anything about farming, with a farm equipped as were the cotton farms, it was impossible to change from cotton to anything else without a considerable outlay of money, as it takes money to prepare to raise stock, cattle, hogs, poultry, or go into the dairying business, and they have to get the money for more than nine months or one year. The banks already had out their money on short loans, and if the banks had not already had their money loaned out on this kind of loans, the farmer could not have borrowed for that short a time and raised anything other than cotton to pay it back when due. So, after the advent of the boll weevil the farmers continued to try the old cotton system of farming.

That now brings down to the starting of the movement Northward. The landowner first let his hired help go, as he could not afford to keep them under the conditions that existed. The next year, many renters and croppers utterly failed to make another cotton crop, and the land owners could not carry them any longer. They swelled the movement Northward. One more year rolled around; many land owners and holders under bond for title were forced to join in the move to the North. Some of those I know have sent back money enough to save what they had from being sold in front of the courthouse door. And at the same time, instead of backing the farmer to start at something else as a main crop and cotton as a side line, farm lands as security are virtually taken as a joke. You can borrow money on city or suburban property; mention borrowing on a farm; oh, no, we don't lend on farms!

And without a change, I don't know what a lot of farmers will do another year, unless they join the movement Northward. For they got by this year by selling what little timber they had and wound up with another short crop. I notice in Tuesday's paper a suggestion that we get the farmers from the Middle West to settle here. Of course, if the farmers of the Middle West want to settle among us, we as a State would be glad to welcome them here. But with what farmers we have left and what would return under different conditions with the proper backing of the farmer to enable him to engage in diversified farming and raise cotton as a side line, we would not especially need any more farmers from anywhere, as the vacant lands could be well utilized as pastures.

So, looking at the matter from the standpoint of cause and effect, the cause of the movement is the absolute necessity to go somewhere to make a living; the effect is a striking at the heart of Georgia in depopulating her farms, as it is cutting her artery of commerce.

I am not writing this letter to cause any undue discussion, but for the sole purpose of calling to your respectful attention facts as I know them to exist in Georgia today; and if any one doubts the statements made in this letter he can by a very little inquiry find them to be true. Georgia is all right; her people are all right. I honestly believe

that the only reason there have not already been some steps taken looking to the relief of the farmer here is because the people do not realize the conditions that exist at the present.

Respectfully, R. H. CULVERHOUSE.

Knoxville, Ga., Nov. 8.

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THE TYRANT COTTON.

Cotton vaunts itself as "King of the South." It has been called many things. Henry Grady called it "a darn fool." Others have called it "the world's blessing." But it remains for Frank Tannenbaum in the October *Century* to give it a new name. He derides the idea that cotton is a beneficent monarch, calls it a Nero and attributes to the fleecy staple most of the troubles of the South. And then he gives it the name "Tyrant." Why didn't he call it Mussolini? He tells the world that on Tyrant Cotton is to be blamed "not only the poverty of the rural community, not only much of the difficulty of the race problem, not only the spoliation of one of the richest soils in America, . . . not only the low standard of living and small money income, but the eternal friction between debtor and creditor, the laziness, peonage, monotonous diet, . . . the lack of proper schooling, . . . the neglect of politics" and other evils.

Isn't it strange that so many writers cannot write without picturesque extravagance of statement? In the first place the conditions in the South are not fairly drawn. As a matter of fact, but for the destruction of the boll-weevil, the agricultural South is far better blessed than the wheat belts of the Northwest. Peonage is something much talked of by writers but rarely seen, and the South's troubles are not all due to Tyrant Cotton. Like other sections it has its shiftless people, but the picture of the South Tannenbaum has drawn is far from the correct one. In truth in North Carolina, where the boll-weevil has done comparatively little damage, the farmers who grow cotton receive better returns for an acre of cotton than any Western farmer on any acre of any crop he cultivates. We do not of course, refer to sugar beets whose owners are paid a bonus on every pound in the shape of hte high tariff.

If the South did not grow cotton on its broad acres, suited by climate and soil to the production of the fleecy staple, what would it grow? Most land suitable for cultivating cotton is not adapted to wheat or like crops, Alfalfa does not flourish under the hot suns, grain is not indigenous and in average years hay is not profitable. Cotton is a hot weather crop and stands long, dry summers, indeed flourishes in such weather. It is not Tyrant Cotton that hurts the South. It is a blessing to the South. It is the failure to diversify, which is essential to profitable agriculture alike in Nebraska and North Carolina that is the trouble. But it is likewise the lion in the path of all farmers.

Tenancy Increase Has About Reached Its Limit in the South

A STUDY of the distribution of farms in the United States according to tenure for each of the ten-year periods since 1880 reveals the fact that the greatest increase in tenancy took place from 1890 to 1900. In that decade the number of tenant farms about doubled, their number increasing much more rapidly than the number of farms worked by owners. Since 1900, however, the increase in tenant farms has slowed down greatly, and from 1910 to 1920, the increase was only 4.3 per cent. In 1880 only one-fourth of the farms in the United States were operated by tenants; in 1890, 28.4 per cent; in 1900, 35.3 per cent; 1910, 37 per cent; and in 1920, 38.1 per cent.

In the South a larger per cent of the farms are operated by tenants than in the country as a whole. There are 3,206,664 farms in Greater Dixie and of this number 1,591,121, or 49.6 per cent are worked by tenants. However, this number of tenant farmers includes 561,091 croppers, who in one sense of the word are not tenants but merely hired hands. There is no great difference between a cropper and a hired hand. One of them receives his pay in a share of the crop and the other in money, but neither one exercises any appreciable control over the handling of the land. The farm owner decides what is to be done, and both hired hands and croppers merely carry out his instructions.

If croppers were not considered as tenants, the percentage of tenancy in the South would be reduced from 49.6 per cent to 38.9 per cent, for croppers make up 35 per cent of all the tenants in the South. However, the largest tenure class in the South is the share tenant proper (the tenant who pays rent with a share of the crop but furnishes his own living and equipment) who composes about 41 per cent of all tenants. Cash tenants make up 13 per cent of the tenant class, standing renters (those who pay for use of land a fixed quantity of a product) 6 per cent, while the other 5 per cent is composed of share-cash and unspecified tenants.

For the South as a whole the percentage of tenancy in 1920 was the same as for 1910, namely, 49.6 per cent; and among the sixteen states counted as Southern by the Census Bureau, only six showed an increased per cent of tenancy; Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. Georgia with 66.6 per cent of her farms operated by tenants leads all states. Tennessee and Mississippi show the same percentage of tenancy in 1920 as in 1910, while Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Kentucky and Oklahoma show a decrease ranging from a fraction of 1 per cent in Kentucky to 4.3 per cent decrease in West Virginia. This decrease does not necessarily mean there was an actual decrease in the number of tenants, but that the proportion of tenants to owners is smaller.

In the South 37.3 per cent of the value of all farm property is in farms operated by tenants. Tenant farms have 39.7 per cent of the value of the farm land in the South, 23.4 per cent of the value of all farm buildings, 22.2 per cent of the value of implements and machinery, and 33.3 per cent of the value of the live-stock.

The foregoing figures indicating the extent and trend of tenancy in the South force the opinion that our problem is not necessarily one of preventing the increase of tenancy, for it seems to have about reached its limit. If there is any increase in the future, it will probably be small. But there must be a reduction in tenancy if we are to have the best type of rural development. However, the most pressing problem at present is the improvement of the conditions under which tenants live. Tenancy is not necessarily undesirable if it is used as a stepping stone to land ownership. But under present conditions too many tenants remain tenants all their lives, and those who do acquire land often do so at the sacrifice of their social welfare. It should be possible for a tenant to acquire land and yet live a fairly joyous existence while striving to reach that goal. As a means to that end, the adoption of better leasing methods will do much. It must not be assumed, however, that this will solve all tenancy problems. The coöperation of society is needed for the correction of tenancy evils.

Cotton Acreage Abandoned.

The report of cotton acreage abandoned since June in the several states, compared with the ten year average of abandoned acreage, seems to give a fair insight into the general condition of the crop in those states. In Texas 2.3 per cent. was abandoned against a ten year average of 3.1—and four and a quarter million bales are expected from Texas, the near-home of the boll weevil. In Georgia 11.6 per cent. was abandoned against a ten year average of 2.5, and this year Georgia takes rank among the lowest of the cotton states. The large percentage of abandoned cotton acreage accounts for the thousands of abandoned farms from which negroes have migrated.

North Carolina farmers abandoned but one-half of 1 per cent. of the June acreage against a ten year average of 1.6. That state's 1923 yield will be up with her record years. One and a half per cent. was the loss in South Carolina this year against the average of 1.6 over a period of ten years. The small loss in planted acreage may be attributed to several causes, but certainly not among the least was the widespread campaign against the attempt to plant more acreage than the farmer could properly fertilize and carefully cultivate. Also an influence was the fact that many farms had been abandoned the previous year by the less capable renters—whites and negroes. The agitation for greater care and attention has borne fruit and it should be continued with vigor.

Oklahoma, Mississippi and Louisiana did not fare near so well, relatively, as South Carolina. This state had some luck in the weather, but preparatory work for the control of the weevil counted, and will always count. There can be no let up in the fight for protection if any degree of continued success is reasonably hoped for.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
JUL 21 1923

A Good Suggestion From a Northern Man

Editor Constitution: The exodus of the negro from the south with the consequent result of abandoned crops, as reported in the newspapers, has prompted me to offer my services as a dollar-a-year man in an effort to bring about a new situation in the south by financing and building homes at net cost.

I am not in the building business, neither am I a land developer—simply trying to start the flow back to the land, by forming communities of small farmers.

Too much dependence has heretofore been put on negro labor in the raising of cotton and too little consideration given to the building of homes and small farming under intensive cultivation; there are too many large plantations which should be cut up into small farms.

Therefore, I agree to co-operate with any individual, state, county or civic body, or board of trade in any city which will finance an educational campaign showing the advantages of small farming in the south, where climatic conditions are more favorable than in the north.

The community plan is semi-co-operative in the sense that the plowing and cultivation will be done with motor machinery owned in common and charged for by the hour, crops marketed through an agent of the community, the intention being to operate under the commission form of government.

The farms will be in units of from 5 to 20 acres—50 families, or more, will constitute a community.

The educational plan contemplates a "soap-box" campaign by speakers who will address people in groups, stressing the importance of owning a home on a small farm where a family may produce enough for its own use, and some to sell, where the head will engage in market-gardening, while other members find employment.

These communities will be located near large cities where labor conditions and good markets exist. The appeal to the manufacturer will be the stabilization of labor. In case of cessation of business the help will not migrate, but will be self-supporting.

It is not intended to deal in land but to co-operate with the land owner. When the settler is ready he purchases his plot direct, pays cash and gets deed. Then I will finance and build a home at net cost, donating free service as inducement to encourage "back to the land and home-owning."

When we are able to say to the people of both the north and south that a certain locality affords a plan of financing

the owning of their own homes through installment payments, the same as rental, you can readily see the effect. If we place 50 families in your vicinity, the result is apparent.

J. B. FINSTER,
79 East Eighteenth Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

[From the Augusta, Ga. Chronicle of October 6] October 25, 1923.

The South and the South's Cotton.

Just the other day The Chronicle printed a letter written to the paper by Mr. E. E. Bartlett, President of the New York Cotton Exchange, discussing the South, the South's cotton, and the boll weevil.

In comment on Mr. Bartlett's letter, we are in receipt of an exhaustive, most instructive and most able letter from Mr. Richard H. Edmonds, Editor of the Baltimore MANUFACTURERS RECORD.

We are giving Mr. Edmonds' letter in its entirety and ask for it careful perusal and as careful study. In it Mr. Edmonds goes into conditions in the South at length. Mr. Edmonds is one of the brainiest men in the South. No man has made a more careful study of the South than he. Every word he utters about the South deserves to be well weighed. Mr. Edmonds' letter follows:

MANUFACTURERS RECORD
Baltimore, October 2, 1923.

"Editor Augusta Chronicle—

"Sir.—The letter from Mr. E. E. Bartlett, Jr., President of the New York Cotton Exchange, in your issue of September 27th, is interesting, but not at all conclusive.

"No intelligent man would for a moment deny the injury done to the South by the boll weevil, but I am glad to see that President Bartlett admits that his $750,000,000 of loss to the cotton farmers of the South by reason of the boll weevil activities this year 'may be and probably is too high.' It is absurdly high. If the South had raised anywhere from 13,000,000 to 15,000,000 bales of cotton, based on its large acreage, I do not think that anyone would question the fact but what cotton would have been forced down to 10 cents a pound. Let us take 14,000,000 bales which at 10 cents a pound or $50.00 a bale would have been $700,000,000.

"I do not think any intelligent man ever would question but what this would have been a terrific loss to the South and that every pound of cotton sold at 10 cents or thereabout would have increased the indebtedness of Southern farmers. But the boll weevil came and it has done for the cotton growers of the South what all the teachings of agricultural authorities and others failed to do during the last fifty years. It has brought down the production of cotton to a point which makes the world eager to buy it at about the present price.

"I do not know if I have ever before seen word coming from Manchester indicating the belief and the acceptation of that belief by Manchester people that 'the current rates for raw cotton are not excessive,' but that is the statement made in the September issue of Tattersall's Cotton Trade Review. Under these higher prices the cotton goods trade of Lancashire is reported as improving, indeed it is even said that 'a burst of buying has taken place in raw cotton, yarn and cloth at hardening rates.' Heretofore it has been the custom of European buyers to denounce the price of cotton as too high, whether that price was 6, 8 or 10 cents. So long as there was a surplus of cotton the producer was in the power of the cotton buyer and Liverpool largely fixed the price of our cotton. The boll weevil has fixed it this time and if this year we raised say 10,500,000 to 11,000,000 bales even at an average of 28 cents a pound, which will probably be too low as the average price for the year, we would have for the farmers of the South approximately $1,500,000,000 or $800,000,000 more than they would have secured for 14,000,000 bales at 10 cents a pound. The individual farmer whose crop was seriously curtailed by the boll weevil may lose heavily, but broadly speaking the South will get twice as much money as it would otherwise have gotten for its cotton crop by reason of the reduction of the crop through boll weevil activities down to a point where the world is hungry for cotton and will pay a decent price for it.

"Some years ago, in response to a request from the New York Herald for a rather lengthy article on the history of the cotton trade, I took the ground that cotton had been a great curse to the South and this section would have been far richer than it is if it had never produced a bale of cotton. I have repeated that statement many times since, and I reiterate it now. Despite all that we might say as to the beauty of the cotton and what it has achieved for the world, cotton has been a curse to this section. It fastened the chains of slavery around the white man of the South to a far greater extent than around the black man. It held back that industrial development which was so prominent in the South up to 1812. Largely as a result of slavery in the South, 960,000 Southern born white people were living outside of the South as early as 1860, mainly to escape competition by the side of slave labor.

"Cotton concentrated the thought of the South upon this one industry to the exclusion of other things. It destroyed diversified farming, and it drained the soil of its fertility. Some twenty or more years ago, Edward Atkinson, writing me on the loss of the South by the lessened fertility of its soil, said that if an accurate account could be taken on a bookkeeping basis placing the deterioration of soil against the capital invested in the industrial and railroad interests, he was satisfied it would be possible to show that the South had actually lost wealth during the preceding thirty or forty years instead of gaining as appeared on the face of the figures showing the heavy industrial development of this section. Much Southern soil has been wasted, land drained of its fertility, and the thought of the people centered on cotton and cotton alone. Especially has this been true of the tenant farmer, who, moving from place to place from year to year, has had but little interest in the improvement of the soil or the bettering of the housing conditions under which he lived.

"A very large proportion of the cotton crop of the South has been raised on farms yielding less than six bales per plow, one horse farms. On the old price of 10 cents per pound, and that was a fair average over a long period of years, indeed was very much higher than for many years, this meant $50.00 a bale or $300.00 as the gross income on the staple for a year's work by the farmer and his wife and children. Out of this he had to pay a large part for rent of the land, leaving to him possibly a balance of $150.00 to $200.00 as his gross income for the maintenance of the family. That meant starvation—physically, financially, morally—and all of this meant the lowering of the moral tone because men and women cannot year after year go on suffering drudgery of this kind in the deepest poverty with the scantiest food, undernourished, without losing something of their ethical and moral character.

"I am in heartiest sympathy with the idea that the boll weevil must be conquered, but the lesson that the boll weevil has taught the South should never be forgotten. Never again should this section raise more cotton than the world will take at a fair price. Never should this section concentrate on any one crop, whether that be cotton or tobacco or anything else, to the exclusion of food supplies, which should be raised at home and raised in abundance. Broadly speaking, I venture to say that up to the present time, while the boll weevil has been exceedingly destructive to many individual farmers, this section as a whole has received more money for its cotton crops during the last three years than it would have received for the larger sales which it would have had without the boll weevil.

Agriculture — 1923.

General.

Conditions of.

AUGUSTA (GA.) CHRONICLE
OCTOBER 6, 1923

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"The moving out of the South of many thousands of negroes is not by any manner of means an unmixed evil. It will quicken the thought of the Southern people and teach them to depend less upon negro labor than upon the white man's labor. It will teach them to depend less upon manual labor and more upon improved farm machinery. It will teach them that agriculture can be carried on in every part of the South by white labor, contrary to the views of some who think that the whole cotton crop has been raised by negro labor. Texas is one of the hottest states in the South, probably the hottest, and yet Texas raises about one-third of the total cotton crop and raises it very largely by white labor. The whole state of Texas at the last census

741,694 negroes as compared with 1,206,-
Georgia, and yet Texas raises annually from
3,000,000 to 3,500,000 bales of cotton while Georgia
rises from about 800,000 to 1,000,000 bales since
the boll weevil came. Arkansas is another state in
which cotton is raised to a very large extent by
white labor and white labor can raise cotton in the
central South just as well as it can in Texas.

"The concentration of negro population in the South has been a disadvantage to this section. It has made us depend too largely upon the negro. It has kept out a better class of white people from the North and West. Competition with negro labor and the low wages which for years have been paid the negroes have caused hundreds of thousands of Southern white men to seek employment in other sections. We have lost far more white people from the South, and said very little about it, then we have lost negroes, about which so much is being said.

"The newspapers North and South, East and West, are discussing the movement of a few hundred thousands of negroes as though this meant a complete economic change in the South and the destruction of some Southern interests, entirely overlooking the fact that between 1865 and 1900, 5,000,000 Southern born whites left the central South or that portion from Virginia to Louisana and 3,5000,000 went entirely beyond the borders of the old Confederacy while 1,500,000 went to Texas and Oklahoma and other Southwestern states. Compare this great loss of 5,000,000 whites between 1865 and 1900 with the movement of a few hundred thousand negroes out of the South and you can see somethings of what this section has lost by white emigration.

Moreover the North and West have known too little about the negro question; they can learn only through personal contact with negro. I would not for a moment minimize the value of the negro to the South but I have always taken the ground that some scattering of the negro race would be better for the South and for the entire country. The movement is something like the boll weevil—it hurts the individual farmer here and there but there are offsetting advantages which will help the negroes, help the white race in the South and benefit to the whole country. I have no fear whatever that the movement of the negroes from this section will be large enough to seriously curtail or halt the progress of the South. It will cause some few farms to be abandoned, and some land to lie idle, but the foundation on which the South is building is too solid and permanent to be seriously affected by such a movement as this.

"If this migration teaches the South to do all in its power to better the physical, financial, educational and moral opportunities of the negro race, it will prove a blessing. We have not done our full justice to the negroes. We have often been content to see them live in huts unfit for human habitation and then expect them to be moral. We have too often expected negro cooks and nurses to be cleanly in the kitchen and of good moral character in training the white children of the South without cooperating to make it feasible for them to do so. We have handicapped ourselves by handicapping the negro. We have injured the South by paying low wages to the negro which has meant low wages to the white man and these low wages and the competition of the negro have driven hundreds of thousands of white people out of the South, even during the last ten or fifteen years.

"The boll weevil started the negro migration, because it made it impossible for the negroes in some sections of the South to continue to grow cotton under old conditions, and, seeking some opportunity for making a living, they learned of the higher wages that were being paid in the North and West in industrial pursuits. The boll weevil has thus created a stir and stimulation; it has awakened new thoughts on the part of whites and blacks alike. It has not, by any means, been wholly an unmixed evil. There have been some blessings connected with its coming.

"Now that we have learned the lessons which the boll weevil is teaching, let us do all in our power to destroy the boll weevil, but let us make sure that the South will more and more turn its attention to diversified agriculture that 'will keep its smoke houses and its corn cribs at home' instead of in the West; that it will htink in other terms than cotton; that it will raise cash crops furnished to neighboring markets every day in the year and thus keep at home hundreds of millions of dollars which are now annually sent West for foodstuffs which could be raised to better advantage at home. Let us at the same time keep the acreage of cotton down to such a point that the Southern cotton grower will for all time to come be able to dominate the selling price of cotton and no longer under the complete domination of the on buyers of the world.

"Very truly yours,

"RICHARD H. EDMONDS,

"Editor."

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79 East Eighteenth Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Agriculture — 1923.
Condition of.

Alabama.

NEGRO FATALIST ON BOLL WEEVIL

"God Sent Him: Let Him Be," Darky Philosophy in Hale County

GREENSBORO, ALA., June 27—Special to The Advertiser—Robert Green and Peter Redding, two very successful farmers of the prairies, have been using Hill's Mixture on their cotton and report that their crop is entirely free from boll weevil, while their neighbors' fields are thoroughly infested.

Mr. Green is the son of the late Judge Samuel Green, of Birmingham, and directs his farming along the most scientific lines. Mr. Redding is an experienced farmer of long years and employs the best of the old methods, at the same time never hesitating to use all new ways of doing things.

A curious fact in connection with the war on the boll weevil is the fatalism of the negro in regard to it. He does not concern himself with the eradication of this pest. He says, "God sent him, let him be." One exasperated merchant told one of his negro tenants that if a mosquito bit him, he did not hesitate to kill him, and God sent the mosquito just as much as he did the boll weevil.

The negro will work his cotton industrially, but if you ask him if he has seen any boll weevil, his reply will invariably be, "I ain't looked."

Agriculture — 1923.

Mississippi.

Condition of

CUTTING UP PLANTATIONS.

Committee to Sell Small Tracts to White Settlers.

GREENVILLE, Miss., Oct. 29.—The committee composed of Henry W. Starling, John H. Boyden and William T. Wynn, named at the mass meeting held to consider the matter of cutting a number of the larger plantations of this section of the delta into small tracts to be sold to bona fide white farmers of the north or elsewhere, is busy and the prospects now point to an organization in a business way of a selling company composed of numbers of planters and professional and business men to go direct to substantial farmers with low prices and liberal terms on these most productive lands. While the real farmer, the farmer who knows what diversification means is desired, Senator LeRoy Percy states that there has never been a time in the delta's history when the outlook for the profitable production of cotton in the delta was more hopeful than now. The short crop of this year was due to climatic conditions chiefly and not to the boll weevil, and with reasonable seasons good crops of cotton can be and will be produced here even with boll weevil infestation. With the fact demonstrated by years of experience that better crops of cotton can be produced in the delta with boll weevil than in almost any other section of the south, and with the present prices for cotton and the higher price for the delta staple, Mr. Percy is more optimistic than for years as to the future profitable production of cotton in the delta section as the money crop.

KEEP NEGROES AT HOME.

Matagorda Plantation Community House a Treat for Workers.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Dec. 16.—A new departure in plantation life is the erection of a thoroughly complete community center on the Matagorda Plantation of Mr. and Mrs. John Bell Hood of Jonestown.

Mrs. Hood, a lady of rare culture, who has traveled every continent, regards every worker, white or colored, on this vast plantation as the special wards of the owners, who have a grave responsibility for the social and spiritual uplift of their charges. Not content to give 100 per cent square deal to every employe of the plantation and do full duty in the ordinary methods of human interest, Mrs. Hood has gone the limit for catering to the social needs and general betterment of the several hundred souls dependent on Matagorda.

Churches are a feature of the plantation and they are kept in good repair by the bounty of Mr. and Mrs. Hood and frequently important assemblages of negro religious societies are held on the plantation. The Commercial Appeal correspondent has a pleasing recollection of attendance on one of these gatherings when colored preachers and social workers from many parts of the country were present. The speeches and sermons delivered were both sensible and practical and showed a very creditable appreciation of the negro problems by the leaders of the colored race.

The splendid community house has just been erected. It is to be an educational, recreational and social center for the negroes. The building cost in the neighborhood of $5,000 and was designed by Mrs. Hood. It measures about 150 by 50 feet; has a double boarded floor, clear of any pillars, with a high ceiling and a roof that is practically cyclone proof. The building ventilates itself naturally and draughts are guarded against. Electric lights are supplied by the plantation power plant.

A stage of large and theater-like plans tins one end of the hall. At the rear the floor space is made clear by the unique plan of suspending the gallery from the roof. It is reached by a stairway at each end. The gallery contains moving picture apparatus as well as a costly radio set, so that the happy colored folks when entertained by the silver screen, may be regaled and astounded with the mysterious music and voices from the air, the powerful radio bringing them music not only from New York, Memphis and New Orleans, but from far off Cuba and Canada. Then the younger generation may enjoy the light fantastic of the dance to the strains of the "Matagorda Blues," composed by the six instrument orchestra of the plantation. In the gallery there is a place set apart for the white visiters and the white employes of the plantation.

The entire scheme and every programme is under the supervision of the owners, who, with commendable foresight, nevertheless leave the actual running of the community center in the hands of the colored people to encourage them and develop in them a sense of responsibility.

Your correspondent was present at the opening of the community house when a most interesting programme was presented. The movies presented the Pathe News and an educational feature as well as a thrilling western picture, after which speeches were delivered by Mr. and Mrs. Hood in explanation of their community house scheme. Addresses were made by Rev. Nelius Downing of the Clarksdale Catholic Church and a very excellent speech by Rev. McMillan, the colored preacher of the plantation, in which he expressed the gratitude of the colored race for all that had been done for them in the past by the master and mistress of Matagorda and this he declared the crowning achievement which would set a new example for every plantation in the south. It would keep the negro in the south, where he naturally belongs, away from gambling haunts and evenings of dangerous idleness, claimed the preacher, who continued, that here they would be taught, as Mrs. Hood promised many things to aid them in raising the standard of their home life and matters of practical utility as well as plenty of innocent recreation. A very touching expression of gratitude was made by this colored preacher in the fervid oratory and unique English of the dark race.

At the conclusion refreshments were served and Mr. and Mrs. Hood were the recipients of an ovation by their grateful tenants and many a moist eyed old darky called a fervent "God bless you both and the master of Matagorda."

FARMING FOR FIFTY YEARS ON SAME STAND

Every Tenant on Mr. Carter's Place on Easy Street.

SENATOBIA, Miss., Dec. 28.—There is a farmer living at Tyre in the eastern part of Tate County who is worrying mighty little over the labor situation; in fact this farmer is worrying mighty little over the so-called "depressed condition of the south," and the advent of the boll weevil, for he has solved the situation by "preparing for war in time of peace." William Carter is the farmer and he celebrated his 71st birthday the 11th day of this month. For 50 years Mr. Carter has been farming at the same old stand, and he knows his 1,600 acres of hill farmlands like a mother knows the features of her child. Every tenant on the upland farm of Mr. Carter for the year 1923 paid every cent he owed and cleared some money. And if that one sentence isn't a knockout blow to the calamity howler, what is. It's a sweet morsel to roll under one's tongue, "paid the debt and cleared money this year," but it is true, for Mr. Carter showed the books on it.

In the first place, there are negro tenants on the Carter farm who were born there, and now they are reaching middle age. One negro tenant, who 50 years ago started to tickling the fertile soil of the uplands of Tate with Mr. Carter for a livelihood, this year paid off his account with a $60 balance on his side of the ledger, killed five porkers for his meat, and filled his little crib with good old time "North Carolina corn," rolled a 'lasses barrel of fine sorghum in the smokehouse and hilled his turnips and sweet potatoes in the corner of his garden. The northern cities or any other place has no allurement for this satisfied negro tenant. That word "satisfied" is the shibboleth of the situation, according to Mr. Carter. Keep your tenant satisfied and you won't have any trouble every year in moving out old ones and in new ones. And keep them satisfied by treating them right; kinder take them in as partners, is his method.

Mr. Carter's farm up in the eastern hills of Tate comes nearer to the old time "before the war southern plantation" that you will find most anywhere. For the 50 years that he has been farming he has never hauled a load of corn into his cribs except from his own farm. He has never bought meat for his tenants except one year when it spoiled on account of warm weather. In fact, Mr. Carter's tenants raise their own corn and kill their own porkers. A good many years ago Mr. Carter cut his 1,600 acre farm up into 80-acre tracts with a good tenant house, a pasture and hog lot and a garden and potato patch with each 80, separate from the others. His big plantation looks like several small ones close together. Then he encouraged the tenant to plant an acre of corn for every acre of cotton that he planted. He showed them how to raise some hay, and foodstuff. Every tenant was required to have some milk cows and hogs. The women were taught how to can vegetables and put up things to eat for the winter. That was 10 years ago when the first serious apprehension was felt for the advent of the boll weevil. Since that time Mr. Carter hasn't had a tenant to leave him, and this year not one has moved away. They are satisfied and feel and take an interest in the success of the farm. That is all splendid, but the best part of it all is the fact that Mr. Carter has raised two fine young sons. He sent them to agricultural schools and they are "back on the old farm," and are helping to make it go, satisfied, too.

Agriculture — 1923.
Condition of.

North Carolina.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
DEC 15 1923

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF A NEGRO FARMER.

The story appearing today in the news columns of this paper relating to the splendid achievements of Frank Lytle a highly respected negro farmer of this county, who has become one of the wealthiest farmers in the whole county, ought to be read and the lessons it obviously teaches taken to heart.

Lytle started life as practically every other negro tenant in this county or throughout the South, with nothing, without land, without funds, without credit, without influence. All he had was a determined soul and a strong muscle. This combination was the only working capital he possessed, and his wealth today, his broad acres, his fine farm, the yard full of high-priced farming implements, many of them motor-driven, and his elegant residence, have all resulted from this crude beginning.

The achievements of this man ought to be made known to those of his race not only, but to the whites as well, many of whom could do what Lytle has done if they would follow his example and strive with the same earnestness and fidelity that he has unbrokenly exhibited through the years.

The trouble with all of us in these times is that we do not want to work like the fathers had to work. Civilization has made things easy fo rus .The times contribute to ease and indulgence and luxury no more than they contributed to the development of the spirit of downright laziness. It is seldom that we find a man today who is willing to let himself out, to extend his muscles to the limit.

The whole working world is more concerned now with the time it is to get through a day's work than about the completion of its task by diligent, persevering, honest labor. The short day, the high wages, the complacent spirit of the age are contributing to a form of shiftlessness that is not only making for indigence, but which is also having a very serious influence upon economics.

Frank Lytle came into possession of his independence because he worked and was not afraid of it, because he was not stopped with the going down of the sun, because he was not ashamed to take his coat off and stay with the job. He has seen hard days, of course; he has suffered physical fatigue, but he is living in robust health and in addition to a good appetite he is active in his aproaching old age, and, even though he should be incapacitated now by reason of some infirmity, he has enough to fall back upon and to continue to live in comfort for the banlance of his days, all because when he was a boy and a young man he was prudent enough to save that he might have.

We hold him up as a worthy example of that spirit of thriftiness and sobriety and energy that has always counted when diligently and intelligently applied, as an apostle of the great prudentialities, as one who has come to enjoy the respect not only of those of his race who care for these things, but the high regard of the white people of his section to whom he is a good neighbor as well as a rich and independent and intelligent farmer-leader.

Agriculture—1923.
Condition of.

South Carolina.

South Carolina Offers Free Farms to Whites

(Special To The New York Age)

Columbia, S. C.—The first positive action looking to the replacing of Negroes with whites in South Carolina has been taken by Greenwood county, which since November, 1922, has lost between 2,000 and 3,000 Negroes by emigration.

New York Age
8/4/23

Settlers who have money enough to finance themselves will be given land free, according to a plan agreed upon by the members of the chamber of commerce.

This offer is for "restricted immigration," however, as only settlers from other sections who are literate and who have sufficient money to make homes for themselves will be given land.

Kenneth Baker, Marvin S. Chipley and Ira B. Taylor, all large land owners, are among those who have said they will give land to settlers of the type mentioned.

New York

Since the Negroes have been leaving in such numbers plans for inducing white settlers to come in and take their places have been discussed, and a "land settlement commission" now is working on the plans, but this action of Greenwood land owners is the only definite step taken to bring whites to South Carolina

Agriculture—1923.

Mississippi.

Condition of.

DELTA LAND DEAL.

White Settlers From the Hills Will Till the Soil.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Sept. 10.—J. P. Hill, Jr., local real estate dealer, has just closed a deal for 2,000 acres of land, the property of R. N. McWilliams, this being one of the largest sales of record for the year. The property is known as the Burke Plantation, is located about 16 miles from this city, and was sold to Messrs. W. G. Mims, of Greenwood, J. S. Hill and R. S. Tillghman of Hardy and T. E. Hill of Tillatoba. These gentlemen will form a company and will farm the land under the name of the Burke Planting Company, the tenants being white settlers from the hill section of the state. It is one of the best plantations in the delta, having some 70 odd tenant houses, four residences, an artesian well, gin, store and school house and is all sandy, loam, "made" land, or land that has been "made" by deposits from the Mississippi River. It is located between the little levee and the main levee and brought an average price of approximately $200 per acre.

Secretary Henry N. Barbee of the Chamber of Commerce reports that this organization, which recently started a movement which had as its purpose the bringing of white settlers into this country from the hills, is daily receiving calls from settlers desiring land and that the demand is far in excess of the supply. This indicates that Coahoma County will not be among those counties which will suffer from a labor shortage as many of the big planters are placing their property or large blocks of their land on the market in 40-acre tracts. Last week through the firm of Carr & Ritchie and indirectly through the Chamber of Commerce campaign, six of these 40-acre tracts were sold, prices ranging from $165 to $200 an acre.

Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tenn.

10-27-23

One-crop Farming

DURING the past summer the Staple Cotton Coöperative Association, of Mississippi, made a survey of the cotton plantations in sixteen Delta counties, including 3,547 farms. The average acreage in these farms in cotton was 302 and in feedstuffs 108. The average number of hands was fifty-two, and of mules twenty-four, or 5.9 acres in cotton per hand and 12.8 acres per mule. There were on an average 2.17 hands for every mule and 12.8 acres of cotton on the average had to support 2.17 hands and one mule. If we assume that the hands received one-half the crop then the crop from approximately three acres is the compensation of each hand. Assuming that one-third bale of cotton was made per acre, then each hand had for his year's work one bale of cotton and the seed from the same.

Taking these staple cotton plantations as a whole the acreage in feedstuffs averaged 108 acres, which must feed twenty-four mules as well as supply feed for such other livestock as are kept on the farm. The 108 acres if at all well cultivated should feed twenty-four mules, but not much corn would be left for the hands or livestock other than mules.

Progressive Farmer Birmingham, Ala.

But this survey shows a typical illustration of the extent to which some sections are devoted to one-crop, cotton farming. Taking Bolivar County, which produces more cotton than any other Delta County, let us consider the cotton and feedstuffs acreages in their relation to the number of hands and mules:

The farms averaged 340 acres in cotton and thirty-two acres in feedstuffs. On each of these plantations on the average were twenty-six mules and forty-four hands. In other words, only thirty-two acres in feedstuffs, to feed twenty-six mules, saying nothing of the hands and other farm animals.

This is an extreme instance of one-crop farming. These cotton farmers, or at least many of them, contend that they can buy their feed cheaper than they can produce it. So far, as we see the evidence from experience, the proof is against their contention, but they are convinced that no other system of farming is practicable for them. In that state of mind *they* probably would not find any other system practical, but the outcome is one of interest and importance. The question is, can Bolivar County, Mississippi, planters continue to grow 340 acres in cotton, work this area with twenty-six mules and forty-four hands and only cultivate thirty-two acres in feed crops? We believe such a cropping system and such a relationship of acres to hands, to mules, to crops, is unsound in farming and economics.

But it is always risky to condemn any system which is accepted and followed by the people of any section. They usually know their conditions best and have some reason for the system followed. It may be the best system of cropping for them for the immediate future, but all the evidence of experience is against the permanent success of such a cropping system.

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Condition of

Wisconsin.

SURVEY DISCLOSES FARM CROPS GAIN AS ACRES DECLINE

MADISON, Wis., Nov. 10.—Agricultural production in the United States during the last decade has increased, although the number of acres in agriculture has declined, according to statistics compiled by the Institute of Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities, with headquarters here.

The study [illegible] return of agriculture to normal conditions by the steady increase in population and includes a comparison of the increase in population with the interest in land [illegible] to agriculture.

"The farm area increased only approximately nine per cent from 1910 to 1920, and most of this was in the semi-arid states," the summary declares. "There were fewer acres in farms in 1920 than in 1910 in many of the states in the corn belt and in virtually all the states east of the Mississippi river.

"Part of this decrease is accounted for by errors in former enumeration, and in the south by failure to include woodland as a part of the farm area. The growth of cities, development of factories, industries, mining and the increase in highways and railroads account for the remaining decrease."

"More significant is the permanent reversion of farm land to forest and brush because it was not fit for agriculture," the summary continues. "Throughout the eastern section, land has gone back to a more economical use. The last census reveals an increase of 5.5 per cent in area of improved land, but an increase of 36 per cent in unimproved land. The increase in unimproved land is almost equal in acres to the increase in all farm land. The significant fact is that production has maintained and even increased by more intensive utilization of the better lands and less intensive use of poorer lands."

Atlanta Journal
11-1-23

Agriculture — 1923

Conditions and Improvement of.

South Carolina.

DR. HUTCHINSON IS REMOVED AS HEAD OF WEEVIL PROBE

Houston Post

Secretary of Cotton Men's Association Announces Surprising Action

Houston, Texas

3-5-23

Associated Press Report.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 4.—The American Cotton association has severed relations with Dr. Miller Reese Hutchinson and his appointment as director of scientific research for boll weevil control for the association has been revoked, according to a dispatch from St. Matthews, S. C., printed here today by the Columbia Star.

The dispatch carries a statement by Harvie Jordan, secretary of the association, stating that all funds placed in the hands of Dr. Hutchinson have been turned over to the association.

The Jordan statemnt reviews the matters that led up to a plan for raising a fund to aid in finding means of controlling the boll weevile part of it to be expended on experiment stations and farm demonstration work and a part of it for scientific research.

Tells of Contract.

It states that Dr. Hutchinson was appointed by President Wannamaker on December 13 to be managing director of the scietific research work and that the association entered into a contract with the Milner bureau, Inc., of Atlanta to put on a campaign for raising $2,500,000.

It then continues:

"Dr. Hutchinson became quite active in the position to which he had been appointed and proposed the calling of nation-wide boll weelvil control convention to be held in Atlanta February 20 and 21 under the auspices of the American Cotton association to begin a nation-wide movement for raising the $2,500,000 fund.

"Took Entire Charge."

"Dr. Hutchinson, without authority, assumed entire charge of the Atlanta conference, organized the national campaign for boll weevil control under a Tennessee charter and without representation of the American Cotton association thereon. Checks aggregating $35,321, raised by the New York cotton exchange expressly for the farm demonstration work as outlined and made payable to the American Cotton Association Boll Weevil Control Campaign were, by misapprehension, placed in the hands of Dr. Hutchinson as chairman of the Atlanta convention."

Mr. Jordan said that Dr. Hutchinson announced that the funds would be used in part for expenses and in part for farm demonstration work. As he had made personal pledges regarding the use to be made of the fund, Mr Jordan says he went to New York, and at a meeting of representatives of the donors of this fund, Dr. Hutchinson was instructed to turn the money over to the American Cotton association and did so.

The statement says the American Cotton association now has no working connection with the national campaign for boll weevile control of which Dr. Hutchinson is the president and managing director and the plans which they have formulated will be carried out as originally intended.

Raise Farm Standards And Protect Agriculture, Says Long In Address

Urges Loyalty to the Farm and Farmers Co-operative Organization—State is Going Through Crisis Now, Million of Acres Idle, Says Clemson Man.

South Carolina is passing through a crisis. Nearly 14,000,000 acres of land in this state are idle; commissions are appointed to investigate and report on almost every conceivable thing, yet a commission to devise a way for the 40,000 white tenants in South Carolina to own their homes; a fight on co-operative marketing of farm products is brewing. These statements were made by Dr. W. W. Long, of Clemson College, in an address before an audience of farmers and business men that packed the courthouse to its capacity Saturday afternoon. The gathering was highly representative and older citizens who head the directors of the South Carolina experiment station declared that although brief, it contained more information and logic than any delivered here, in many months.

The meeting was presided over by Leon L. Rice, who has been very active in the co-operative marketing campaign in this county. Mr. Rice announced that a membership drive for additional members to the marketing association will start in his county on March 27 and continue five days, during which time it is hoped that a number of new members can be secured. The overhead expenseso for the association will be increased very little were the membership doubled the volume of cotton handled much larger than it is now. However, the overhead at present is not excessive, amounting to about $1.50 to $1.60 on the bale. Although very little has been said or written about the price cotton placed in the hands of the association has sold for, Mr. Rice said that the prices are very satisfactory to the directors, running from 26 to 31 cents on the 33,000 bales of mostly low grade cotton sold by the association to date.

Andrew Bramlett, representing the offices of the association, stated that the association has received 112,000 bales of cotton, of which 33,000 bales have been sold. He asked the farmers present to lend their assistance in the membership drive soon to start in this county.

Dr. Long announced that he would speak on agricultural conditions in this state, the necessity for co-operative marketing and the loyalty farmers should show toward the marketing association. Asking the question "When have we had profitable agriculture in South Carolina? and answering it with the statement that while some farmers in this state have made money farming, but not consistently and constantly, the the speaker launched into a thorough discourse of conditions that confront the farmer today. The best there is among the farmer an the business men of the state must rally to the cause of agriculture if it is to be maintained on a high standard in South Carolina. Not since 1860 in the opinion of Dr. Long, has agriculture paid in this state on an average.

"If we maintain our standard of civilization, the standard of living in the country must be raised to the standard of living in the city. In South Carolina, we are going through a crisis. I don't know what the result will be and I am no pessimist. The best minds must take hold if we are to avert serious consequences. Why do I say we are passing through a crisis? Because during the last two years, there has been a decrease of seven per cen in the acreage in cultivation in this state. Of the 19,500,000 acres of land in this state, the greatest number of acres ever in cultivation was 5,800,000. There are nearly 14,000,000 acres lying idle. Last year, there were 5,300,000 acres in cultivation, and this year there will be even less. I believe I have the facts to prove my case that we are passing through a crisis."

Dr. Long then touched on the migration of negro farm labor, which he says is being ursurped by the industrialists of the North, who are finding themselves without "cheap labor" because the influx of Italian and other foreign workers has been diminished through the immigration laws of the United States. The negroes are going to the North, Dr. Long said that the negroes are not the only tenants desserting the farms for the city, as statistics show that in the last ten years, 750,000 farmer have left the country. Regarding the migration of negroes, Dr. Long said that the negro population shows an increase of 529,000, with a decrease of 113,000 in the South.

Regarding the coming of northern textile pant to the South, Dr. Long said there is little doubt that they are coming, but as well pleased as he will be to see them, he is not unmindful of the fact that these new industries in the South will mean an increased movement of farmers to the mills unless the standard of living is raised in the rural communities. To raise the standard of living in the rural districts and give agriculture the encouragement it so well deserves, Dr. Long stated that the best minds of the state, in legislative halls and elsewhere must come together to work out the solution of this all-important problem. No criticism of the members of the legislature was offered by the speaker, but he added that the people are to be criticized for not sending students of agricultural economics to represent them.

"Two commissions have been appointed recently in two states, and for two purposes," Dr. Long continued. "In this state Gov. McLeod has named a commission to study the methods of taxation in other states, and to report on the best ways to devise means for the opening up of new industries in this state and for the development of our resources. In North Carolina, a similar commission, with a different purpose, was named. "But where have we heard of a commission being appointed to pave the road to home-ownership for the 40,000 white tenant farmers of South Carolina?" he asked. California, where the co-operative idea originated, is busy working on this problem, and will soon, California leaders believe, perfect means for home-ownership. European countries are giving much thought to this matter, the speaker said, realizing that a nation of home-owners is to be desired almost above everything else.

Dr. Long then turned his attention to co-operative marketing, saying that he believes it is bound to succeed in even greater proportions than it has already, because "righteousness is back of it." The small farmer, who has been swindled and cheated out of his cotton in the past, enjoys full protection. The persons who are fighting co-operative marketing, Dr. Long says, has a selfish axe to grind; the interests fighting this sound economic plan for marketing. Sr. Long predicted that a hard fight would be made on the marketing association by interests certainly not seeking the welfare of the cotton farmers. At this point the speaker touched on the benefits to be reaped from organization, and added that while he wuold not say that the fertilizer manufacturers had combined on prices, it was "strange, passing strang" that their prices are practically the same. The association "stole a march" on the opposing interests, the speaker declared, outdistancing interests that would gladly have spent $100,000 or $300,000 to have prevented the perfection of an organiztion that would have control of 100,000 bales of cotton. Now, heavy onslaughts may be expected against the association; malicious reports that are calculated to damage the organization will come, but "I don't believe they can break us it doesn't matter a darn what they do."—(Applause.)

At the conclusion of Dr. Long's address, several farmers asked questions regarding the advisability of using sweetened poisons. In reply, he stated that the department was without convincing proof that these mixtures beget satisfactory results, and recommended calcium arsenate on the dust form as best poisoning method.

SOUTH CAROLINA MAKES A STRONG MOVE TO BENEFIT TENANT FARMERS AND LARGE LAND OWNERS.

THE effort which South Carolina has undertaken to stop the trend of population away from that state by making it possible for its tenant farmers to become land owners, and at the same time planning for long time loans and low rates of interest for the development of land settlement work, not only for the tenant farmers of the state, but for those who may be drawn in this way to South Carolina, is one of the most interesting movements under way looking to the development of the South. The story is told in detail elsewhere in this issue.

This plan should be carefully studied by the people of every state of the South. It shows that South Carolina is awake and is determined to utilize its potentialities for the betterment of its agricultural conditions, which would mean the betterment of all classes of its people. There is very little land in South Carolina which is not more inviting for settlement and better for farming than was the sandhill region of North Carolina centering around Southern Pines thirty years or more ago. After the timber had been cut off, that region was about as barren a spot as any man would ever want to look upon. It seemed to be one vast, dreary waste of sand. When John T. Patrick undertook the establishment of the town of Southern Pines he was vigorously denounced by many people of his own state, and by some of the state officials, on the ground that the region was so desolate and poverty stricken that any attempt to develop it would reflect upon the whole state and do great harm.

The Seaboard Air Line officials looked upon the project as a forlorn hope. They did not believe it possible that that section of country could ever be made to prosper; and as the writer from time to time passed through that region thirty years or more ago, and tried sometimes to drive a buggy through it, the deep sand gave an impression of a hopeless proposition. It was almost impossible to find a stretch of road on which a horse could move more rapidly, even to a light buggy, than a walk. The timber had all been cut out. Here and there little patches of scrub oak appeared, but the land seemed too poor even to grow scrub oak. Patrick, however, believed that in its climate that section had an advantage justifying an effort to settle it. He also had faith in its possibilities for fruit growing.

Today the whole Southern Pines-Pinehurst-Hamlet region has been changed as by a miracle. Land once selling at 15c to 25c an acre is today worth anywhere from $100 to $300 an acre, and some even sells at a still higher figure. These dreary stretches of sand have now blossomed forth into superb orchards and vineyards.

Prosperity reigns where poverty once held full sway.

What has been done in the Southern Pines region, as the outcome largely of the tireless work of one energetic soul who never knew how to admit defeat, can be done over a large part of South Carolina and, indeed, over a very large part of every backward region in the South, by the same kind of energy and broad vision. Now that South Carolina has actively taken up the study of the improvement of its agricultural conditions we hope to see every other state in the South follow its good example, and thus South Carolina may have perhaps inaugurated a move which will be of inestimable value not only to its own people, but to the whole South.

LAND SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

A serious effort is being made in the State of South Carolina to bring about the resettlement of lands that have been abandoned, for of its 19,500,000 acres less than 5,000,000 acres are under cultivation. Fewer and fewer white farmers live on their farms. Thirty-eight thousand families live there as tenants only. Nine thousand families have moved away to the cotton mills and lumber camps during the last two years. Moreover, thousands of negroes have migrated from the large estates, leaving their owners literally beggared for want of labor, and thousands of acres are falling back into the wilderness from which the earlier settlers recovered the land. The boll weevil has become a greater burden than even the grasshopper was in other ages and other regions.

There has come a time for new pioneering and the State has set about this work with all the vigor of a pioneer settler. Under the chairmanship of former Governor RICHARD I. MANNING, a South Carolina land settlement commission, appointed under a joint resolution of the Legislature of South Carolina, has, after a year's study of conditions at home and of land colonies in California, Wisconsin and North Carolina, just made a report to the Governor urging the establishment of an unpaid land ownership board to which the State shall make an initial loan of $300,000 for the purpose of beginning first of all the resettlement of its own "landless" people as permanent owners. These advances to the new settlers are to be secured by mortgage on the reoccupied land. Beyond this, the qualified voters of the State are to be asked at the next general election to vote upon the issuance of bonds in the amount of a million dollars as a revolving fund from which to make further loans to settlers at a rate of interest not to exceed 6 per cent. and for a period not to exceed thirty-six years. It is emphasized that this is not a charity, but a "straight-out business proposition." It is merely a lending of the State's credit, with certainty of return upon its investment.

This is but a beginning, as the report intimates, of a grappling with the questions which have their roots in land. Indeed, most if not all of the questions that perplex the public must eventually be traced for their answers to land economics, to the relation of man to the earth he lives on and lives from. What is needed to carry into most beneficial effect these recommendations of the committee is a thorough economic survey of the lands as a basis for their classification, in order that each plot may be turned to its highest and most profitable productivity. This will doubtless mean the adoption of a diversified agriculture and the production of many things that the State has now to import. But whatever the result in actual productivity, it is a fine bit of public service that these new pioneer patriots have given to their State, to which after their journeys of inspection through twenty States they have returned with a greater respect for "its potential resources."

Agriculture — 1923
Condition and Improvement of.
Georgia.

PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEDGER
JUNE 5, 1923

Philadelphia, June 4, 1923.

GEORGIA'S "HAPPY VALLEY"

A Picture of Negro Farm Labor Conditions as They Might Be

To the Editor of the Public Ledger:

Sir—The letter to the PUBLIC LEDGER from Mr. Morgan on housing and living conditions on Georgia farms was more than interesting; it was startling.

That is a real Happy Valley he pictures—where the Negro and white farm workers live in the same kind of four and five room houses and work under virtually the same living conditions. Do they get the same wage? Do the whites enter into the same kind of "labor contract" with the landowners? Are the whites given actual money at the end of each week or month, or are they given only "orders" (such as the blacks get) on the general store owned by the plantation?

Somewhat refreshed in mind by this letter from Mr. Morgan, I think I can conjure up the picture he had in memory when he wrote his communication.

Scene: A plantation in McDuffie County, Georgia, a peaceful, law-abiding community which still shows the influence of that noble humanitarian, the late Thomas E. Watson.

A "big house" on the hill filled with happy, well-paid servants who are eager to do the bidding of the pious, God-fearing people who preside over the destinies of the plantation.

Rows and rows of neat four and five room cottages, set artistically about the big farm; the houses for whites and blacks alternating.

In the distance a barn bursting with hay and grain; a herd of Holstein cattle in the pasture; a few prize Berkshires in an inclosure down by the creek.

A big general store not far away, where the Negro farm worker can supply his needs at market prices.

And then, best of all, a kindly, humane employer in the "big house" who is deeply concerned over the welfare of the Negro tenants and anxious that they be able to secure for themselves and their children some small share of the good things of life. * * *

But this perhaps will suffice. The rest can be filled in by some other good Georgian who thinks his native State a great place—viewed from the safe confines of Pennsylvania.

WILSON JEFFERSON.

June 3, 1923.

Agriculture—1923 # General.
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SOUTHERN LAND PROBLEMS.

New York Times
4-16-23

Little Hope of Farm Development on Cut-Over Acreage.

There is little hope in the near future for extensive agricultural improvement of the thousands of acres in the South which have been denuded of their trees by the big lumber companies, Captain John B. Woods of the United States Internal Revenue Bureau told the members of the Southern Pine Association at their recent annual meeting in New Orleans. Captain Woods said that only 384,000,000 of the 604,000,000 acres of the land area in the South were classed as farm lands in 1920, with only 183,000,000 acres of improved farms and the present unimproved land problem of the South involves at least 400,000,000 acres. The farm land of the South decreased more than 11,000,000 acres since 1900, and the rate of land improvement has dropped materially since 1910, being for the decade of 1910-1920 only about 8,000,000 acres, as compared with 26,000,000 for the preceding decade, which statistics, Captain Woods argued, show a distinct falling off of agricultural expansion.

"Can all this land be sold to settlers or to any one else? Can any material portion be permanently disposed of at prices which will reflect our present ideas of value?" asked Captain Woods.

He mentioned that the population of the South today is about 36,000,000, or one-third of the total of the United States; that the increase is falling off as shown by the census for 1900, which revealed an increase of 5,000,000 and that for 1910, which showed an increase of only 4,000,000 persons, thus indicating an increase of about 12,000,000, or a total population in the South of 48,000,000 by 1950, twenty-seven years hence. By comparison of Government statistics, he estimated that this increase of population would only run the total land settlement between now and 1950 up to 43,000,000 acres, which is only one-fifth of the available supply and about one-tenth of the present unimproved acreage of the South.

"The increase of population is our greatest hope," he added, "and that appears to promise very little relief. In view of the tremendous excess of land supply over probable demand, it is evident that land values cannot rise rapidly enough to protect the owner of land which is only of medium quality for farming and the price of cutover land is likely to remain stationary for some time, being now perhaps less than $5 per acre in township blocks. It should be borne in mind, too, that it is a common saying that land must double in value every ten years, if its possession is to pay the owner his taxes and compound interest on his investment."

According to Captain Woods, the reforestation of cutover lands in the South is the only profitable solution to the problem facing the manufacturers.

"Studies recently completed," he stated, "indicate that forests can be grown upon ordinary piney-woods soil at a rate which will make such land worth by 1950 not less than $50 or perhaps $75 per acre. Probably the manufacturer should sell wherever he can such portions of his cutover land as are suitable for farming, but the great bulk of it will yield more in timber crops than in agricultural crops."

Taking up the arguments against reforestation, Captain Woods said it is very unlikely that reforestation will ever be taken up by the Governments, either State or Federal, or both, to an extent sufficient to relieve the Southern pine operators of their difficulties in solving the problem of making their enormous cut-over acreage productive.

"Time was when colonization for the disposition of the cutover piney woods lands of the South was the order of the day, and these schemes have been common for the last decade," Captain Woods said. "Many of them have been carefully planned and skillfully executed, all of them have been costly and a few have been really successful. While in every case, perhaps, settlement has been stimulated for a time, this condition has been temporary, and the aggregate result has been disappointment and large scale colonization and land sale operations by pine men have not fulfilled expectations.

"Nature will take care of reforestation, provided the lumbermen go to a little greater logging expense to use more care to preserve the young seedlings. Fire and the razorback hogs are two other obstacles, but the first, with proper precaution, can be greatly curtailed and the latter is really not so serious as it is reputed to be.

"Local political leaders," he explained, "require funds for many purposes, and the lumberman usually plays the rôle of Santa Claus. But where will tax revenue be obtained when the virgin timber is gone? If these barren lands revert to the counties, who can afford to buy them and pay taxes on them? In general, the present tax rate on cutover land is not prohibitive of continued holding. The danger lies in future revaluations which may keep pace with the growth of new timber crops and constitute an increasing burden upon the owner who is trying to reforest. Probably the solution lies in a severance, or yield tax, upon mature timber as cut, the income from which shall be available for local Governments in the same ratio as present taxes."

LITTLE ROCK ARK. GAZETTE
MAY 27, 1923

SOUTHERN FARM LABOR AND LABOR-SAVING MACHINERY.

The movement of negroes from Southern farms to the factories of the North and East should bring Southern farmers to the use of improved machinery that will save labor and incidentally reduce production costs.

Until recent years there has been a sufficient supply of labor on southern farms and probably on this account comparatively few serious attempts have been made to use labor saving machinery. Everything that the farmer needs in the wheat belt or the corn belt in the way of labor saving machinery can be purchased at a village hardware store.

Ninety-five per cent of the South's cultivated crops are cultivated with one-man, one-mule implements. The man and the mule go up one side of a row of cotton or corn, down the other side and then plow out the middle, thus making three trips across the field for each row cultivated. In the corn belt such methods and such implements were abandoned in the early 70's on account of the large acreage each man handled. The cotton belt can do the same and in some instances has done the same. In the cotton regions of central and west Texas and part of Oklahoma white labor is used exclusively. In those regions the cotton growers use large and improved implements. They break the land with plows that require from two to five mules, but require only one man. They plant the cotton seed with a two-row, two-horse planter, one man driving, and they cultivate with a two-horse cultivator that takes care of a row each time the field is crossed.

The last census showed that, as compared with 1900, there were 1,700,000 fewer workers engaged in agriculture in the United States although the aggregate crop production had increased from 20 to 40 per cent. This was done by the aid of labor-saving farm machinery and it represents great economy in production. The number of days of manual labor necessary to produce the average wheat crop of America is 7,000,000, but if the crop were produced without farm machinery the number of days of manual labor required would be 130,000,000.

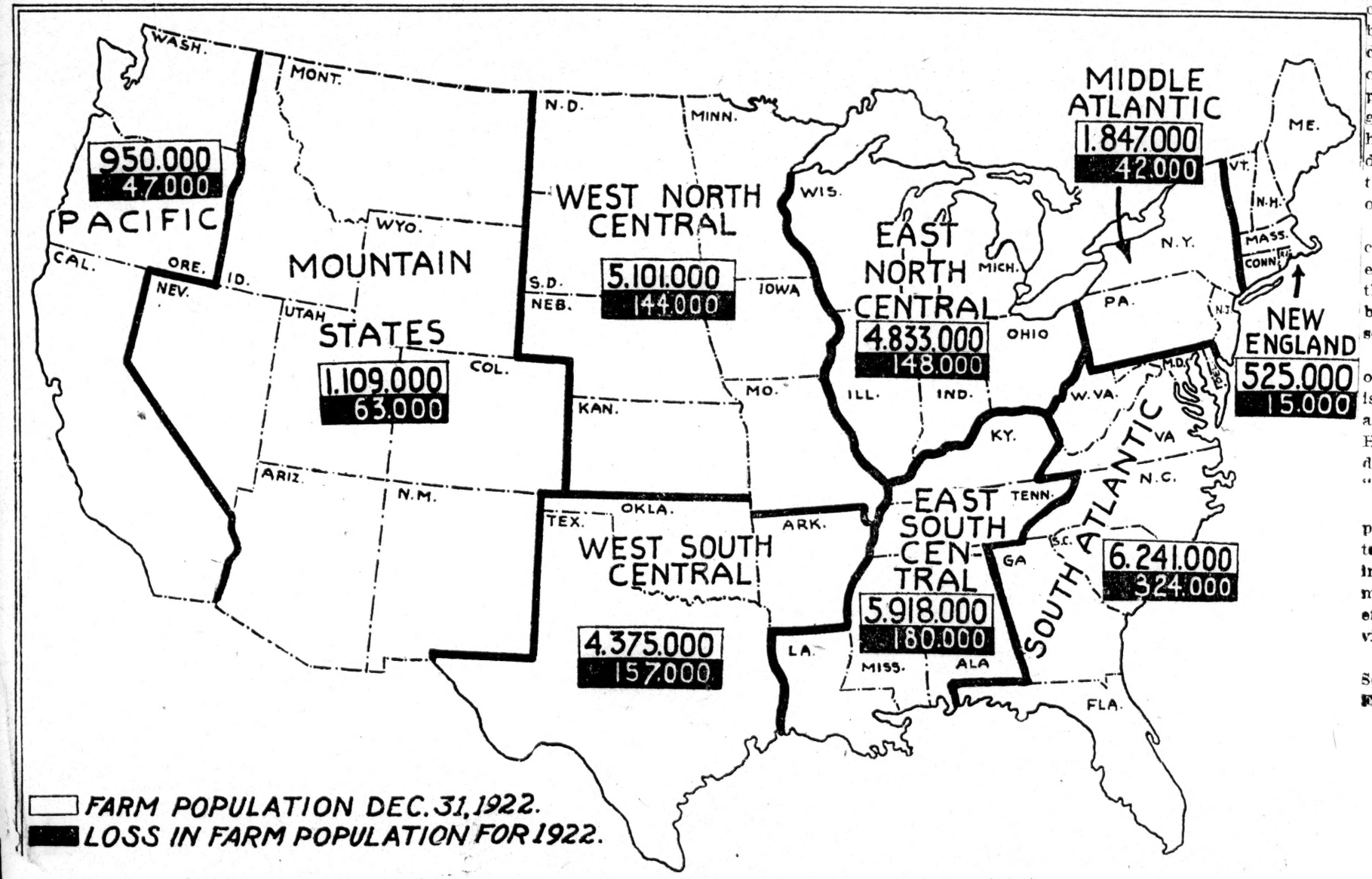
The Texas and Oklahoma cotton growers who use improved machinery require from one-half to one-fifth the man power to break their land, one-half the man power to plant their seed, and one-third to one-half the man power to cultivate their crops. They use less than two-thirds the human power in chopping their cotton because modern implements reduce the amount of chopping and hoeing needed. The United States Department of Agriculture made the following report on its investigation of the labor used in producing 10 acres of cotton in Texas and Oklahoma and in Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia: It required four days' manual labor to prepare the 10 acres for planting in Texas and Oklahoma and in the other states mentioned it required 14. Planting required one day in Texas and Oklahoma and two days in the other states. Cultivation, seven days as against 17; chopping and hoeing, 11 days as against 18; hauling to market, two days as against four.

When the use of improved labor-saving machinery is suggested to the average cotton grower he answers that the negro can not be taught to handle it. But thousands of negroes in the South are operating costly, high-powered automobiles for white owners. The ease with which negroes learn not only to operate automobiles but to make minor repairs has supprised white observers. In parts of Mississippi where there has been a labor shortage for several years n groes are operating improved machinery.

Another excuse given is that the stumps in the cotton fields prevent the use of machinery. These stumps, agricultural experts say, should be removed anyway as a measure against the boll weevil; but even with no boll weevils the farmer ultimately will have to remove the stumps because he will have to fortify himself against a shortage of labor. Some of the negroes who are going North will return but not a very large percentage of the number that have gone. And this should be kept in mind: with immigration restricted industries in the North require all the common labor that is afloat plus all the common labor that that can be drawn from the South.

There will be periods when labor again is plentiful in the South, but the southern farmer can not afford to have a feast one year and a famine the next in the matter of labor. He should be prepared every year against a famine.

AMERICA'S DIMINISHING FARM POPULATION



Note. Continued from Clipping; "Farm Population Falling off at the rate of a Million."

CHARLOTTE, N. C. Observer

JUL 21 1923

THE NEW DAY ON THE FARM.

THE Observer has maintained aforetime that the real cause back of the departure of negroes from the farms in the South is the indifferent provision for their living conditions. The country has grown away from the day of the log cabin and the negroes have gone with the country. The general movement is one of protest against what might be termed the housing condition on the farm. Some will come back when this condition is improved; none will return to the farm until they can return to a better farm home. The farmers of the South might as well recognize that fact and govern themselves by it. The figures in connection with the migration will show that North Carolina has been the least affected of all the Southern States and this is partly because living conditions on farms in this State have been progessively improved, yet the fact remains that much is yet to be done in that direction. This underlying cause of the migration is becoming understood abroad, as well as at home, and some of the outsiders have been set to scheming with benevolent intent. As an instance, The Observer has received a letter from J. B. Finster, 79 East 18th street, Brooklyn, N. Y., we are giving his address because it will hurt no one to give his plan a little thought—offering himself as "a dollar-a-year man" in an effort to bring about a new situation in the South "by financing and building houses at net cost." He declares that he is not in the building business, neither is he a land-developer; he is merely trying to start the flow back to the land "by forming communities of small farmers." We are extending him entire honesty of purpose and we are laying down the proposition at the same time, that Finster is advancing a sound and co-operative in the sense that the plowing and cultivation will be done with motor machinery owned in common and charged by the hour; crops marketed through an agent of the community, the intention being to operate under the commission form of government. The farms will be in units of from five to 20 acres—50 families, or more, will constitute a community. The educational plan contemplates a "soap-box" campaign by speakers who will address people in groups, stressing the importance of owning a home on a small farm where a family may produce enough for own use, and some to sell, where the head will engage in market-gardening, while other members find employment.

These communities will be located near large cities where labor conditions and good markets exist. The appeal to the manufacturer will be the stabilization of labor. In case of cessation of business the help will not migrate, but will be self-supporting.

It is not intended to deal in land but to co-operate with the land owner. When the settler is ready, he purchases his plot direct, pays cash and gets deed. Here is where Finster comes in. He will finance and build a home at net cost, donating free service as inducement to encourage "back to the land and home-owning."

He thinks that when we are able to say to the people of both the North and South that a certain locality affords a plan of financing the owning of their own homes through instalment payments, the same as rental, one can readily see the effect. If we place 50 families in any particular vicinity the result is apparent.

The Observer believes it might be desirable for Senator Giles to have conversation with Mr. Finster.

It is pretty much in line with the intent of the North Carolina farm-owning bill, now giving promise of fine results. Small farms, comfortable houses and means to finance the farmer to ultimate ownership, points the way to the coming developed prosperous condition of rural life in the State.

But getting down to Finster's proposition and argument. He is clearly right in the contention that too much dependence has heretofore been put on negro labor in the raising of cotton and too little consideration given to the building of homes and small farming under intensive cultivation; there are too many large plantations which should be cut up into small farms. Therefore, he agrees to co-operate "with any individual, State, county, or civic body, or board of trade in any city which will finance an educational campaign, showing the advantages of small farming in the South, where climatic conditions are more favorable than in the North."

The Community Plan, says Mr. Finster, is semi-

WORK ON THE FARMS.

Shaw, Miss., June 16, 1923.

Editor Commercial Appeal:

The letter from Mr. R. B. Buchanan that you gave space for on the editorial page of the Friday's issue has much to commend it at all times, but more especially at this the most critical time in the history of the cotton crop in many sections of the south. His suggestions to bankers, merchants, chambers of commerce and other influential organizations throughout the south to get busy "now," is timely and good advice, but what can be expected of such a move?

There are numbers of idle people, whites and blacks, men and women, that crowd the cities, towns and communities, who seem determined not to work under any condition, and who should be compelled to do their part at all times, but more especially under such distressing conditions as have prevailed for several weeks, and seem destined to continue for an indefinite time.

The writer, like Mr. Buchanan, was reared on a farm in South Carolina, and did all kinds of manual labor for years; and I can testify to the truthfulness of his statement that it develops one's physique to say nothing of the value to the farm products. But, Mr. Editor, times have changed very materially in latter years, and the average school boy is not required to do very much work, even around the home. Later on, after he has been to college, the greater part of them deem work derogatory to their standing, and resort to all kinds of subterfuges to get by work, such as is required on farms.

This is the experience and personal observations of a man who has long since passed his three-score years; and if anything worth while can be had by impressing the idle ones, especially the youth of our land, into farm work, let it be done at once. A serious problem seems to be in the near future if things do not change. The handwriting is on the wall.

M. K. SCRUGGS.

Agriculture—1923
Condition and Improvement of.
Texas.

Texas Negroes Like Farming

The report of H. H. Schutz, agricultural statistician for Texas, on negro migration, indicates a stability of character and a degree of intelligence among Texas negroes that the race in this State may well be proud of.

Houston Post Dispatch, Tex.
2-6-23

While other Southern States showed a marked loss in negro population through the emigration of their negro citizens to the industrial centers, Texas presents a strong contrast. Some Texas negroes have yielded to the lure of distant places, but most of them have had the intelligence to return and resume their lives here in the Southwest where the real opportunities for them are much greater than in the North or West.

The increase of 12 per cent in the number of farms operated by negroes in Texas during the last ten years is a matter of special note. In the same length of time the increase in the number of farms operated by whites has been only 1.7 per cent, indicating that more and more agriculture is coming into the hands of the negro.

The farm in the South or Southwest is the negro's best opportunity. Nowhere else has he the chance to realize his ambitions for economic independence, and recognition as an asset in the community, that the farm presents to him. The negro is especially adapted to the farm work of the Southern States, and here, if he is worthy, he can always find white friends to assist him financially in acquiring a farm of his own.

This report of the increase in negro farmers is one of the most encouraging notes that has come from Texas agricultural circles in a long time. It means much for the future of the negro race in this State and for Texas agriculture.

"I would suggest to valley farmers that they secure negro labor from the east. They are natural cotton farmers, having been born and reared in this business, and do not need to be taught how to grow cotton."

EL PASO TEX TIMES
NOVEMBER 1, 1923

BABER URGES VALLEY FARMERS TO IMPORT NEGRO GROWERS TO TAKE CARE OF COTTON CROPS

COTTON is El Paso's greatest single asset in the opinion of W. F. Baber of the Altura service station on Piedras street. "Speaking from an industrial standpoint, I am convinced that cotton grown in El Paso valley is destined to become by far the greatest single factor in the development and growth of El Paso, specially since the building of the big cotton mill seems to be an assured fact," Mr. Baber said.

"Having been reared on a farm, in a cotton country, I believe I am a pretty fair judge of cotton land. I have seen the Imperial valley and also have looked over and inspected the Salt river project as to cotton production, and have observed and studied the El Paso valley as to cotton production for the last four years, and am thoroughly convinced that this valley is far superior to auything I have ever seen for cotton growing.

Industry in Infancy.

"Of course, the industry is still in its infancy here. and is destined to undergo mnay setbcaks and adversities before it is developed to its greatest possibilities. Very few who are growing cotton in the valley seem to be familiar with its management and culture. Cotton needs very little water after the land is properly prepared and the crop properly cultivated. I am sure this is one of the worst drawbacks to the crop. Many farmers seem to think when their cotton shows signs of suffering for work that it needs water, and instead of working it they flood it with water, which is the very thing it does not need.

"First, the ground should be prepared before planting, just as the expert gardener prepares his garden land, and then it should be cultivated just as well as a garden; and if this is done it will require very little water.

"Besides the adaptability of the valley land to cotton, it seems to have the advantage of being immune from danger by insect pests, which is one of the greatest of the many advantages the valley has for growing cotton over any other place I have seen.

"I am sure that there are many thousands of acres of land in the El Paso valley that will produce two bales to the acre year after year if properly prepared and cultivated. There should never be allowed a single green thing to grow in cotton besides the cotton itself. It is far better to produce two bales to the acre on ten acres than one bale to the acre on 20 acres, as is being done by many farmers who do not properly prepare the land, and therefore only get half a stand.

Agriculture—1923
Conditions and Improvement of.
Virginia.

CREDIT UNIONS TEACH FARMERS BANKING HABIT

Chicago Defender

Farm Demonstration Agents in Southland Plan Extension of Work This Year

3-3-23

By WM. ANTHONY AERY

Hampton, Va., March 2.—Plans for increasing the effectiveness of the 1923 extension-service work of all the farm and home demonstration agents of Virginia were made at the recent annual four-day meeting, which was held at Hampton institute, under the auspices of the Virginia Agricultural college and Polytechnic institute at Blacksburg and in co-operation with the states relation service of the U. S. department of agriculture.

John B. Pierce of Hampton institute, who is the field agent of the states relations service, for the farm-demonstration work in eight southern states, including Virginia, in opening the annual meeting, said: "There are 31 colored agents (seven home and 24 farm demonstration agents), together with three supervising agents, who ar e working in 31 Virginia counties, in which there are between 29,000 and 30,000 Negro families. The demonstration agents must develop local leaders to carry out the extension service program."

Nation-Wide Borrowing Wave

C. R. Titlow, secretary of the Federal Farm Loan bank of the Baltimore district, which includes Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, and Porto Rico, with its 200 farm loan organizations and loans amounting to more than $31,000,000, exclusive of more than $1,000,000 in Porto Rico, stated that, just as there have been crime waves, religious waves, and educational waves, there is today a nation-wide borrowing wave, which goes back to the time of the world war, when men in business centers, who could borrow money readily, were able to make large sums of money almost over night. He said:

"Whereas the old sentiment was, 'Never buy until you have the money'; the new sentiment is, 'How much can I borrow?' It is unfortunate, if a man needs money and cannot borrow it; but it is more unfortunate, if a man can easily get money, when he doesn't need it."

The federal farm loan act makes it possible for thrifty farmers to secure long-time credits at 5½ per cent interest and to free themselves from ...ightmare of recurring renewa... ...m mortgages held by individu...

"We have loaned vast amounts of money to Negro farmers in Virginia," said Secretary Titlow, "and there has not been a single default in payment from Negro farmers in the Baltimore district. Very few farmers, in fact, have to be prodded for payments. The farmer can always be trusted, to his utmost ability, to pay. He will sacrifice everything to pay his interest charges."

Unions Teach Thrift

T. B. Patterson of Hampton institute, a Virginia district agent, declared that the credit unions have taught Race people, even boys and girls to save. "Farmers of average intelligence," he said, "can run a credit union with the aid of forms which have been provided by the National Credit Union of Boston. It would be well to put the credit union system of Virginia under the supervision of the Virginia Polytechnic institute at Blacksburg and thus reduce the routine through which farmers must now go, if they wish to organize credit unions in Virginia. The chief end of the credit union is to help the farmer finance himself with anything that he has to buy for cash in order to increase his production. Not one of the 15 Negro credit unions of North Carolina has failed, in spite of the recent economic depression."

That the county agents need (1) to study carefully all the statistics of the vital things which relate to their communities, (2) to apply their power of observation to community needs, (3) to plan their work with reference to state programs, and (4) to co-operate with other community workers were opinions which were expressed by I. L. Hobson, Washington, D. C., field agent for the states relations service, in his address on "Analyzing of the County Extension work."

Norfolk Journal & Guide
1/20/23
Norfolk Virginia

We should have a strong Bureau of Negro Economics in the Federal Departments of Labor and of Agriculture. There was a splendid beginning made in the Administration of President Wilson, with Dr. George E. Haynes in charge in the Department of Labor, but the Bureau had its name changed to the Bureau of Conciliation and placed in charge of a Negro politician who has allowed it to fall away from what it was doing in a big way under Dr. Haynes. Dr. Scarborough wants to develop a strong Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and we hope he may be able to do so. Negro wage earners and farmers need special Government and State bureaus to protect and promote their interests, as white bureaucrats do not give such the time and attention and sympathetic interest they require. It is much that way with our schools which being separate should be looked after and over-

...BOYS ARE CHAMPIONS.

It is reported that the best corn producing field in the state last year must be credited to two Negro boys, members of the corn and pig club, in Hale county. Very good. That is the valuable sort of education our Negro boys need and the sort of ambition that should be encouraged.—Opelika Daily News.

The Birmingham Reporter is happy to know that Negro boys are excelling in so great a study as that of agriculture, and that they won prizes in competition with white boys in the same state and county. The Opelika Daily News is altogether right when it says that Negro boys should be encouraged along this line of study. They should. And they should be encouraged in every other worthy enterprise, professional and otherwise. If we are to have symmetrical and worthy citizenship among Negroes, it must not be limited to corn and hog raising. It wouldn't hurt any of our citizens to know more about scientific agriculture.

TUSKEGEE TO HAVE FARMERS' EXCHANGE

Surplus Fruit and Vegetables of Macon to Have Market

(Special to The Advertiser)

TUSKEGEE, ALA., April 4.—The farmers of Macon county have located at Tuskegee a business house known as the "Farmers Exchange." Asa Vaughan, county farm demonstrator, is the president of the firm and D. W. Walker will be the local manager. The firm hopes to open for business not later than April 15. This new establishment for Macon county will handle all the surplus products of the farms and gardens of the county, such as eggs, chickens, vegetables, grain and the like. Heretofore there has been a great waste to the farmers of the county, in that there was no sale for the surplus that was produced. The firm hopes to dispose of a large part of their surplus supplies to the Government Hospitals in contract form.

The building to be occupied by this firm is located next door to the Tuskegee News office, and has been remodeled so as to meet the demands of the management. This firm will net many thousands of dollars to Macon county farmers that otherwise would go to waste.

HOW THE BOLL WEEVIL BROUGHT DIVERSIFICATION TO AN ALABAMA COMMUNITY.

IN 1919 Enterprise, Ala., erected a monument to the boll weevil on the ground that the boll weevil had commenced the emancipation of the Southern cotton growing interests from the complete slavery of dependence upon cotton.

With the spread of the boll weevil there were some farmers in the South who saw that the time had come to abandon cotton growing except as a side issue, making diversified farming their main industry with cotton growing only to such an extent as they could raise cotton after they had cultivated as much land as possible in diversified crops.

In this issue Mr. R. O. Fleming, Commissioner of Public Works, of Enterprise, Ala., sings the praise of the boll weevil and tells of what it has meant to the people of his section. Referring to the awakening which came to the farmers of his county he says:

"Diversification was preached on the hills and in the valleys throughout the country, and for the first time in the history of the cotton growing section an attempt was made to find other commodities and raise other crops, such as peanuts, corn, hay, sweet potatoes, sugar beets, hogs and cattle; and the results were astounding."

Coffee County, in which Enterprise is situated, according to this letter of Mr. Fleming, "broke the world's record for the area involved in the yield of peanuts and the return in dollars and cents for hogs and cattle shipped. The farmers in the county raised more than enough corn, hay, potatoes and cane for home consumption, and realized more than $5,000,000 out of peanuts alone, and cattle and hogs were shipped in trainload lots."

Diversified farming in the South is a possibility, which offers opportunities almost limitless in extent. The more rapidly the South turns to diversified agriculture the more quickly will it cease spending hundreds of millions of dollars annually for Western products which can be raised to greater advantage at home. Cotton at 30 to 40 cents a pound would not in the long run bring as much prosperity and as well rounded development as would diversified farming. The South need not and will not abandon cotton growing, but cotton should henceforth be merely a by-product crop with diversified farming as the dominant factor in all agricultural interests in the South. Elsewhere we are publishing a photograph of the monument built to honr the boll weevil and a story of what diversified farming has meant to the county in which he monument stands.

Marengo Conditions Are Ahead of Past Years.

While admitting the farmers of north Marengo had suffered by the exodus of the negro following the invasion of the boll weevil John D. Norwood, president of the Commercial National Bank of Demopolis, stated yesterday the general condition is far ahead of any previous year.

The Marengo farmers, while planting more cotton this year than usual, are still depending upon alfalfa and Johnson grass hay to a great extent.

Reflecting the financial condition of that section of West Alabama, Mr. Norwood said: "We will probably not have to borrow a dollar this year. Usually we are forced to rediscount a lot of our paper, but this year we had to go on the open market for short-time investments which will mature about the time we usually have to borrow from other banks. The high price for farm products the past season enabled many of our customers to take care of their needs while making this crop."

LOUISVILLE KY COURIER JRN
MAY 21, 1923

and make high priced [illegible] people again next year.

(MRS.) TEED WITHERS
West Point, Ky., May 13.

THE NEGRO AND THE SOUTHERN WHITES.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

Allow me to make the following statement:

Many of our Southern white friends have recently sought to express in some tangible way their deep gratitude for the unselfish devotion displayed by our mothers (slavery-time negroes) and our fathers—even though no monument to them has been suggested—who were just as loyal to their owners as were our women.

It is felt that it would not be out of place also if more were said of the first and second generations of these same negro people. Have they not a sense of honor that is equally high and well tempered to meet the present conditions as was true of their mothers and fathers in their day and time? It is not thought opportune to praise individual negroes to the extreme and at the expense of the race. The mass of negroes will discount such, but in a broad and impartial way, set forth facts on the progress of the race as a whole in the South, in the past twenty-five years. If the negro is needed to help develop this section (which is commonly conceded), it is suggested that in their own way the daily white papers of the South carry on a system of publicity, setting forth some of the many good traits and virtues of the "New" Southern Negro as a racial group at the present time, as for instance:

(a) Home Ownership, (b) Education, (c) Religious Growth, (d) Business, (e) Professions, (f) The Negro in the World War, (g) The Negro as Farmer, Mechanic, Common Laborer, etc.

The white South could tell these stories more accurately than anybody from the outside. They know that the negro responds more quickly to praise, encouragement and fair treatment than any other separate racial group living among white people.

Most of the Southern States are putting on advertising campaigns to attract white farmers from other sections into the South. Similar methods might be employed to help keep negro labor here which the South already has.

It is believed that through such campaigns, much good can be accomplished. It is also thought that no other agency can do as much constructive good at the present time as the Southern press toward welding the friendship of the two races; for, indeed, there is much distrust and misunderstanding existing now, and the negroes who are going North in large numbers are carrying, by word of mouth, a kind of news that is destined to do harm to this section of the country for many years to come, unless certain counter-acting forces are set in motion at once. In order to be effective, the desired change must first come from within.

T. M. CAMPBELL.
Tuskegee Institute, Ala., May 18.

LEE COUNTY NEGRO SUCCESS ON FARM

Carter Dowdell Owns 380 Acres and He Makes Every Acre Pay Handsomely

OPELIKA, ALA., July 24—Special to The Advertiser—One of the best demonstrations in Lee county of successful diversified farming is being conducted by Carter Dowdell, a negro living six miles southeast of Opelika.

Carter was born in this county and now owns 380 acres of land which he has paid for. Its equipment is much above the average, and he attributes his success to hard work and diversified farming as recommended by his demonstration agent.

Cotton is Carter's main money crop but along with it he sells other products. His annual sales of butter, chickens, and eggs vary from $400 to $600. At present he is delivering 20 pounds of butter weekly to customers in Opelika. Last year he killed and cured at home 2,000 pounds of meat, which he sold at satisfactory prices. He has a home orchard which he sprays, selling peaches and apples each year. From his garden he sells vegetables from early spring until late fall.

Carter is a firm believer in [illegible] purebred livestock of all [illegible] owns two registered Jers[illegible]

[illegible] nigger's Cotton [illegible] white." Recently he bought a new automobile and declared that it cost him nothing because he paid for it with the money which he received for his cotton over what he would have received if he had sold it outside of the association. In addition to being an enthusiastic cotton association member he gets others to join.

Carter has fourteen children and most of them are satisfied to stay on the farm because they are making money farming.

Monument to the Boll Weevil

The boll weevil, known to science as "anthonomus grandis," is the cotton-grower's greatest enemy. Strange to say this pest is honored by a monument at Enterprise, Ala. How is this possible? The inscription on the base of the memorial fountain speaks for itself.

In Profound Appreciation
Of the Boll Weevil
And What it Has Done
As the Herald of Prosperity
This Monument is Erected
By the Citizens of
Enterprise, Coffee County, Alabama.

The famed locusts of Egypt did hardly more damage, Enterprise citizens assert, than did the boll weevil when it

The Patriot
8-8-23
Washington, D.C.

In Honor of a Pest

chewed up Coffee county's cotton crop one season. Instead of 35,000 bales, the usual production, only 10,000 bales were realized. Facing bankruptcy, most of Coffee county's 1500 farmers turned to raising corn, sugar cane, cattle, hogs, peanuts, hay and sweet potatoes. The result was that the peanut crop alone brought $5,000,000.

The ravages of the insect pest turned crop rotation from a theory into a necessity. Farmers who had been in the habit of staking a year's success on one "iron in the fire" now have half a dozen there. Coffee county returned thanks to the voracious invader for the lesson it taught by erecting this monument in the public square at Enterprise.

ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE NEGRO FARMER IN ALABAMA

(Honorable Wm. F. Garth, senator from Madison county, is chairman of the Legislative Recess Committee. The following correspondence between his committee and a number of representative negroes of Madison county will be of State-wide interest):

June 14, 1923.

P. C. Parks,
Reuben Jordan,
Wm. Harris,
M. A. Love,
Frank Jacob,
Dr. Chas. F. Wall,

Dear Sirs—I have the pleasure to acknowledge your letter of June 11, the contents of which have been carefully noted. I read your statement on the status of the negro farmer of Alabama to the Legislative Recess Committee on Agriculture, of which I am Chairman. The committee, as a whole, was so favorably impressed with the significance of your letter than the members have joined me in the reply as indicated by their signatures.

We appreciate much the clear and constructive manner in which you have presented the situation. We are in thorough sympathy with your view and have resolved to give these matters all consideration that the time allotted to the committee will permit, with a view of being able to suggest changes for the better.

We again assure you of our appreciation for your communication and the constructive thought which you are giving to the betterment of farm conditions in Alabama,

Sincerely,
W. F. GARTH, Chairman,
GEO. DUNCAN,
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LEE CALLOWAY.

The Negro's Condition.

Hon. W. F. Garth,
Montgomery, Alabama,
Dear Mr. Garth:

For a number of years I have been making a careful study of the conditions among the negro farmers of Tennessee Valley with a view of getting down to a practical working basis upon which both landlords and tenants could stand and work for the common good of each other.

From this point of view, I wish to state briefly the situation as I see it and to offer a few suggestions as to how to remedy the situation. In making this statement, however, let me say it is not made in a spirit of fault-finding or as a caustic criticism, but for the purpose of understanding the facts as they are and the facts that must be fully understood and met before we can successfully work out a satisfactory system of profitable farming in the State.

The facts as I have studied them are as follows:

In Alabama today there are about 70,000 farms operated by negro tenants and share-croppers. The average size and type of these farms are about 26 acres.

(1) These 26 acres are divided somewhat as follows:

()a 1 acres in cotton, or 73 per cent of the crop area.

(b) 5 acres in corn, or 1 3.10 per cent of the crop area.

(c) 2 acres in miscellaneous crops or 77.10 of the crop area.

(2) The average type of the farms are as follows:

(a) 1 mule or b[illegible]
(b) 1 cow.
(c) 2 pigs.
(d) 14 head of chickens.

(3) The average farm equipments and supplies valued:

(a) Farm machinery and tools $50.
(b) Commercial fertilizer $15.
(c) Farm house and out buildings $180.

(4) Finally the average tenants family averages about four and seven-tenths persons.

From the analysis of these facts it can be readily seen that these tenants are the poor one-crop farmers of the most dependent type, (1) Because their homes and out buildings are valued at only $180; (2) 73 per cent of the land area cultivated by them is devoted to cotton; (3) because 85 per cent of the entire time of the family in crop production is used upon this one crop of cotton; (4) and the ctton crop measures the purchasing power of the tenants' family.

Again it can be easily seen that these tenants are large purchasers of food stuffs for both man and beast, (1) because five acres of corn averaging 15 bushels to the acre will not feed the family, the mule and fatten two pigs; (2) neither will two acres of forage crops make sufficient rough food for a mule and a cow; (3) hence the remainder of this food stuff must be bought through the purchasing power of the cotton crop.

(5) Farm owners.

According to the census of 1920 in the State of Alabama there were 18,000 negro farm owners who did not know how to diversify their crops. And they were so poorly equipped financially and educationally, and many of them were so badly tied up with their merchant and banker that it was almost impossible for them to initiate plans for their own elevation.

(6) The future negro farmer and farm workers.

What is worse in Alabama there are 175,000 negro farm workers between 10 and 20 years of age who are receiving their training from this same unskilled and inefficient class of farm tenants and farm owners. This fact cannot be too deeply impressed upon the committee, because, however high may be the average yield of the white farmer per acre, the whole average yield is lowered by reason of the low yield per acre of the negro farmers.

In addition to this situation in the bill of complaints which is being filed by the negro farmers against these conditions, and this is taken advantage of by labor agents to lure the negro into leaving his home in the South.

Here again I do not wish to be understood as a fault finder or offering caustic criticism on conditions, but on the other hand, I am stating these complaints as they come to me from time to time, from the colored people who are leaving the farms of the South for the cities and for the North.

(a) Low earnings each year; (b) high prices of provisions on the farm; (c) poor housing conditions on the farm; (d) a general lack of police protection; (e) poor school houses, poor teachers and short school terms; (f) bad treatment generally; and (g) a general want of open encouragement and recognition of the negroes who are trying to do.

Whether all these complaints are true or not I believe you will agree with me that the effect is the same. And the state is losing some of its best and most trusted laborers. This we all regret.

As dark as the situation may seem from the statement of the facts, it must be admitted by most persons that the negro is making progress and he has [illegible] greater purchasing power in the [illegible] the race. Here is where the hopeful [illegible] of the situation comes in.

Now Mr. Garth, if these conditions are to be improved, and they must be, the big forward step in Southern agriculture will have to be taken by Southern white men of your type.

(a) By a group of you men getting together yourselves and deciding upon what is the fair and just thing to be done to help negroes to help themselves.

(b) Then hand pick a good group of negro men who have the point of view and the vision of the real work to be done.

Madison County Example.

Here I wish to offer by way of suggestion two or three concrete examples of what has been accomplished in the Tennessee Valley.

For a number of years the negro farmers of Madison and adjacent counties have been making strenuous and definite efforts to meet the farm situation in the Tennessee Valley:

(a) By encouraging and developing self-initiative and self-help among negro farm workers in each community; by urging the tenants and farmers to improve their home life, to grow what they and their farm animals need to eat at home; by encouraging the home-getting and home-staying instincts, without which no people can ever amount to much in life.

(b) By stimulating and encouraging mutual interest and a better relation between landlord and tenant; by urging tenants to keep their contracts and other obligations with landlord, to maintain the fertility of the soil and to keep up repairs on the farm; by, whenever and wherever possible, seeking to get the landlord to help the tenant diversify his crops, to furnish better tenant houses; and by seeking to teach the lesson that a mere contract will not work a crop, but on the other hand, there must be at least two contented and well satisfied parties back of the contract, co-operating for mutual interest of each other.

(c) To accomplish these purposes, we have proceeded with a few well defined and definite projects, upon which all parties could cooperate, in this section.

(1) Demonstrations in good seed selection for which prizes were offered for the best specimens through the chamber of commerce and other agencies.

(2) A series of country wide campaigns to increase the food crops grown by negro farmers, with the cooperation of the chamber of commerce and other agencies.

(3) The organiaztion of the farm improvement and cooperative association, which has for its purpose better farming, better business, and better living among the colored people of the Tennessee Valley. This effort was sponsored by Mr. Clyde Hendrix, General John Peoples, Hon. John D. Rather Jr., Col. W. F. Garth.

(4) Out of this series of projects there has developed the North Alabama Colored Fair Association, a corporation with paid in capital stock of $10,000, owned and managed by 100 of the best and most progressive negro farmers in the county. It is without doubt the best and most successful piece of inter-racial cooperation to be found anywhere in the State.

This project has been successfully operated for four years and has become a concrete and practical working basis upon which the best element of both races have agreed to stand and work for the common good of the community. This idea is well illustrated in the 20-year lease drawn between the Madison County Fair Association and the North Alabama Colored Fair Association, the said lease signed by Col. W. F. Garth and D. C. Finney for Madison County Fair and Dr. B. E. Scruggs and P. C. Parks for the North Alabama Colored Fair. This contract constitutes well satisfied parties on both sides. It stands for inter-racial cooperation in the promotion of the agricultural and economic interest of the section; for a practical method by which to inspire the work-together and stay-at-home spirit. And for a kind of show window of the best products of the field, feed lot, garden, orchard, workshop and home; and not only to represent the best products grown and the best work done in the country, but also to represent the best in athletic contest, pageant plays, games and other features of recreational and educational value, which makes the community a fit place to live nd work. This is what is needed to help check and take the place of the negro exodus from the South. And because of these activitis Madison county has reaching and arousing the masses of farmers and farm-workers to greater effort at self-help and self-initiative on the farm, and

Strong Cooperation.

In all these projects and activities Madison County Fair Association, Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, the county and city boards of education, the Huntsville press, bankers and citizens generally have encouraged and cooperated with the negroes in this great work and stood sponsor for

Agriculture—1923. II Alabama.

Conditions and Improvement of

other lines of effort.

The examples set by these agencies in Madison county have been adopted and successfully carried out in many instances in other counties like Limestone, Morgan, Lawrence, Colbert, Lauderdale and Jackson in the Tennessee Valley; and Franklin, Lincoln, Marion, Marshall, Coffee, Giles and Gundy in Tennessee.

What we want now is that these agencies, which have so nobly sponsored and fostered these projects in Madison county, should become permanently stabilized and formed into a more definite and closely organized cooperative effort among the same agencies in other counties in this valley, to the end that we may have a greater and more effective progress in home and community building in this sction.

In a large measure, this progress can best be accomplished by making, the North Alabama Colored Fair a district fair for this whole section.

The North Alabama Colored Fair Association is a home grown product and has proven up; and for that reason is the best and most logical organized for the purpose. It has a well defined plan of cooperation with Madison County Fair Association in working out the fair idea as a great educational institution for the common people. It has the equipment and leadership to handle the situation. Such an organization could become a great service bureau in this section of the country.

Finally, if these criticisms and suggestions can be favorably considered by you and your committee, I am sure that your committee can develop a scheme for reaching and helping a great mass of negro farmers in the State.

Hoping you will take this long letter in the spirit in which it is written, we are,

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DR. CHAS. F. NALLS,
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ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE NEGRO FARMER IN ALABAMA

(Honorable Wm. F. Garth, senator from Madison county, is chairman of the Legislative Recess Committee. The following correspondence between his committee and a number of representative negroes of Madison county will be of State-wide interest):

June 14, 1923.

P. C. Parks,
Reuben Jordan,
Wm. Harris,
M. A. Love,
Frank Jacob,
Dr. Chas. F. Walls.

Dear Sirs—I have the pleasure to acknowledge your letter of June 12, the contents of which have been carefully noted. I read your statement on the status of the negro farmer of Alabama to the Legislative Recess Committee on Agriculture, of which I am Chairman. The committee, as a whole, was so favorably impressed with the significance of your letter than the members have joined me in the reply as indicated by their signatures.

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DR. CHAS. F. NALLS,
P. C. PARKS,
REUBEN JORDAN.

Agriculture - 1923.
Improvement of.

National Federation of Colored Farmers.

National Federation Of Colored Farmers

In 920, Negro farmers operated 41,432,182 acres of land. The value of the land and buildings amounted to $2,257,645,325 which represented an increase in ten years of $1,334,927,622 or at a rate in excess of eleven million dollars every thirty days. The founders of the Federation have handled approximately:

2000 cars of white potatoes.
1500 cars of watermelons.
500 cars of cow peas.
500 cars of pigs and hogs.
300 cars of dairy rations.
400 cars of hog feed.
100 cars of cabbages.
100 cars of strawberries.
200 cars of peaches.
Several cars of hay, wheat oats.
5 cars of barb wire.
150 tractors.
300 plows.
200 automobiles.

Our farmers are the only men of our racial group who are doing business on invested capital exceeding two billion dollars.

As producers they are adding to the wealth of the nation, but because they are unorganized they are without influence to protect their investments or, to control the marketing of heir products.

One of the aims of the National Federation of Colored Farmers is to establish branches in conveniently located cities where shipments of farm produce can be received and marketed at the highest prices for the members of the Federation.

Another aim is to purchase supplies needed by our farmers in quantities that will effect a considerable siving in cost prices to the members of the Federation.

It is our plan to have the mmebers of the Federation meet each year in National Convention for the purpose of discussing the problems that are peculiar to our colored farmers, particularly such objects as financial credits, grading and marketing farm products, an dthe purchasing of farm supplies.

An effort will be made at our headquarters to keep in touch with all matters of National legislation effecting agricultural interests and to keep the members of the Federation informed.

James P. Davis, president; J. H. Watson, vice-president: T. P. King, vice-president; Gilchrist Stewart, secretary-treasurer. Directors: Chas. . Hall, T. Edward Hill, C. L. Rochester, E. A. Long, J. A. Bolden, T. . Shivers, Maurice C. Clifford, Cornelius R. Richardson, J. T. Johnson, scar C. Owen, M. M. Curry, Marks rothers, Geroge E. Bass, Heman E. erry.

For further information address, ecretary the National Federation of olored Farmers, Richmond, India a.

Agriculture — 1923.
Improvement on.
Alabama.

SOLVING A BIG PROBLEM.

On this page is reproduced an article by P. O. Davis in The Farm Implement News of Chicago, under the caption, "How an Alabama Farmer Solved the Farm Labor Problem." It is worthy of general perusal, and especially by the larger farmers who have depended upon men and mules more than on improved, labor-saving, time-saving and money-saving machinery.

In the instance cited this Alabama farmer, who took a broken-down and abandoned farm, that had not paid its former owner, and made of it a profitable investment, and for himself a pleasant and remunerative business—and all because he saw the necessity for relieving himself at the outset of the usual labor problems of the community, and through investments in tractors that yielded most satisfactory dividends.

In this day of farm labor shortage, due to the negro exodus from the rural districts into the industrial centers of the north and west, the tractor, and other power machinery, are almost indispensible on the larger plantations, certainly if the producer has a keen eye for business, keeps records and really expects to see a profit accumulated from his year's activities.

In the Alabama case referred to the farmer is alleged to be making this year more cotton with one team, three tractors and three colored farm hands than was made formerly by six mules and a farm hand for each mule.

It is a very interesting illustration of advancements in farming operations, and of necessary conservation if success is to be had under the present economic conditions involving the rural communities.

How an Alabama Far Solved the Labor Prob

By P. O. Davis in Chicago Farm plement News.

Among many people in the south there is much concern regarding the farm labor situation, which is really serious in many sections. The United States department of agriculture reports a net movement of 324,000 negroes from farms to towns and cities in 1922, and the best available information indicates that the average annual movement away from the southern farms since 1916 has been about 200,000. The annual number never ran very far into the thousands prior to 1916, averaging 10,000 to 12,000 each year from the close of the civil war until 1916.

It is therefore apparent that there is ample reason for serious concern regarding labor on the part of thousands of southern farmers. Vacant tenant houses are numerous in the negro sections, and abandoned farms are frequently found.

On the other hand, there are many farmers who are not worrying about a labor shortage. Among them is Isham J. Dorsey, of Opelika, Ala.

Took Over Run-Down Farm.

In 1921 when negroes were leaving farms and other agricultural conditions were not promising, Mr. Dorsey took charge of a worn-out, run-down farm which had been rented for many years and cultivated in cotton by negro tenants. It was gullied throughout and was, in every way, a poor looking proposition. Previous yields had been far too low to produce a profitable return, yet, in spite of this poor condition, expected labor shortage and unfavorable conditions with reference to prices of farm products, Mr. Dorsey began farming.

For several years he had been an automobile and tractor dealer, and during this time he had honestly urged farmers to buy tractors. To get them to do so he had been demonstrating their value in a small way, and one reason for taking over the old home farm was further to demonstrate his confidence in the value of tractors and other modern farm equipment.

After an analysis of the situation he decided that the first thing to do was to give his farm a thorough plowing, filling in the ditches in the process. To do so a tractor was necessary, because the power required was too great for horses and mules. Therefore, Mr. Dorsey began plowing with a tractor, and at the proper time in the fall after the land was thoroughly prepared he seeded it to oats, making a satisfactory yield the first year.

To add nitrogen and organic matter—the two most important plant requirements—to his land he followed his oats with a crop of cowpeas. The result was that a 30-acre field which yielded 754 bushels of oats in 1922 yielded 1,205 bushels this year. The average for this field was little more than 40 bushels per acre, and a few acres in it must have made 50 bushels per acre. This year he made on a total of 96 acres 3,138 bushels of oats, or an average of 32.6 bushels per acre. This average was reduced by several acres which were not reclaimed until 1922 and were lower in production.

But this is to be a story of how farm machinery is replacing farm labor. When Mr. Dorsey began operating this farm there were six tenants on it, each operating a one-horse plow. The average annual yield per tenant for cotton had for several years been about three bales, with not enough feed crops in addition to feed the livestock.

Reduced Tenants and Work Stock.

The first thing Mr. Dorsey did was to reduce the number of work stock on the farm and let one-half of the tenants go. To replace them he bought two tractors and other machinery & kept one team. He now has th tractors and one team.

As has been stated, he has already harvested this year 3,138 bushels of oats and now has 46 acres in cotton, which he and his county agent, L. T. Wells, think will yield one-half bale to the acre if weather conditions this year are only average. This means twenty-three bales, or five more than the average made by the six negro tenants who made each year three bales to the plow.

Immediately after oats were harvested Mr. Dorsey sowed peas on his oats land, which he could not have done if he were dependent entirely on horse or mule power. With a tractor he discs 15 to 20 acres per day, and after the land is disced he hitches his tractor to a grain drill followed by a culti-packer and seed 20 to 25 acres in peas each day. Incidentally, all his oat harvesting work is done by machinery, and the grain is hauled to market on a motor truck.

To sum it up, Mr. Dorsey is making more cotton with one team, three tractors (one bought recently) and other machinery, and three negroes, than was formerly made by six negroes and six mules. Of course, extra labor is used during oat threshing and cotton chopping and picking. In other words, he has cut his labor requirement almost in half and yet increased his cotton yield. In addition he is making a big oat crop, as well as a small amount of other feed and food crops. He is not worried about a labor shortage, but thinking more about sufficient farm power and plenty of modern labor-saving machinery.

HOW TO OPERATE 320 ACRES WITH TWO MULES TOLD

Details Of Demonstration Being Carried Out In Montgomery County Given

STATE CAPITAL BUREAU
THE AGE-HERALD
Montgomery, Ala., Oct. 14

Some interesting details on a farm demonstration being carried out in Montgomery county under the direction of a farm management expert are given in a statement issued today by F. W. Gist, agricultural statistician. The demonstration is calculated to be of interest to owners of Black Belt farms, the object of the demonstration being to show that a 320-acre Black Belt farm can be made to family unit farming, and that machinery can take the place of other labor.

Following is Mr. Gist's statement:

Can a farm of 320 acres be operated with two mules and two and a half men? An attempt is being made to demonstrate the practicability of doing so at a profit in Montgomery county. The farm belongs to [illegible] Taylor of Montgomery, and the demonstration is under the direction of J. S. Mobley, the farm management expert of the International Harvester company. The farm is typical Black Belt soil on which some cattle have been grazed in very recent years, and from which a few crops of hay have been cut since it came into the present ownership.

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25 Acres Former Unit.

For many years the average Black Belt farm, whether a large plantation or a small individual farm, has been a unit of 25 acres, a negro family, and a mule. Therefore, a 320-acre tract of cultivated land has been divided into about 13 tenant farms, supporting 13 men and their families and operated by 13 mules. In some instances, of course, a negro family has operated two or more plows, according to the number of persons old enough to pull a bell cord over a mule's back. When this land produced a bale of cotton per acre, and each mule produced 20 bales of cotton and a small volume of corn and other things, this system of farming was profitable, at least to the land owner, who received one-half the cotton as rent. The merchant who sold food and feed for the operation of these farms also found the system remarkably profitable. A few years ago the boll weevil came along and cut the yield of cotton to an average of less than 100 pounds of lint cotton, and the tenant found that he could not cultivate 20 acres in cotton and make anything at all. Since that time the land owner has frequently failed to get his wonted rent, the merchant has failed to collect his store bill, and the negro has gone to town or the public works to make a living. The census of 1920 reported 90,000 acres of land in farms in Montgomery county less than in 1910, and the county, which in 1914 produced 54,000 bales of cotton, in 1916, produced less than 8,000. The county also lost 18 per cent of its rural negro population from 1910 to 1920, most of it after 1914.

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Affected By Labor Shortage.

Since that time many farms in Montgomery county have been taken over by white farmers from other sections, who have gone into dairying cattle raising, and hay making. These have been more or less successful as they have applied practical farming systems to local conditions. Even these, however, have been seriously affected by labor shortage and other problems annoying and expensive. Mr Mobley, in this demonstration on the Taylor farm, proposes to prove that 320 acres can be made the family unit; that machinery can be made to take the place of man labor; that two mules can take the place of 13.

The old-time Black Belt farmer became firmly convinced that corn could not be grown on this soil; Mr. Mobley believes it can. Undoubtedly, in its present condition this soil has not been producing a sufficient yield of corn to make it profitable, and the idea has become prevalent that corn can be bought cheaper than it can be grown. It is generally believed, and so stated, that the soil in this region is rich enough naturally to grow anything. Certainly the natural rainfall is sufficient every year to make a good yield of corn. The season is long enough to mature corn to its best grade. Then what is the matter? Lack of humus is the answer. A century of clean cultivation and taking away all the vegetable growth has exhausted the humus content, left the soil tight and droughty, and in seasons of heavy rainfall waterlogged. The first thing Mr. Mobley proposes to do before even planting a corn crop is to put back the necessary amount of humus. To do this he intends to grow a crop of oats and white sweet clover. The oats will be cut for use on the farm and the clover turned under. This process will be followed for two seasons, and then corn will be grown.

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Problem Is to Make Profit.

In the meantime, the problem is to make a living and a profit from the land while building it up to the point where a definite system of rotation will keep it up. A portion of the farm will be utilized as a hay meadow, and another portion as a pasture for cattle. About 15 dairy cows will be kept and milked, and so far as the pasture will provide beef cattle will be grazed. The oats and hay will supplement the pasture. Hogs will be kept in proportion to the dairy cows and about 200 hens will complete the live animal complement of the farm.

When the growth of corn is begun, each acre of corn will be interplanted with soy beans. Most of the corn and all the beans will be harvested by hogs, which, when finished will go on the market as hard pork. No crops will be sold from the farm, all the vegetable growth being fed into live animals, which will constitute the marketable resources.

The machinery to be used will consist chiefly of a tractor, a disc plow, a disc harrow, a section or sharp tooth harrow, a cultipacker, cultivators, manure spreader, hay loaders and balers, and other minor implements. Nothing will be handled by hand which can be handled by a machine. Hay will be taken directly from the ground as mowed and moved by machines into the barn; only enough corn will be harvested to furnish meal for the cows and grain feed for two mules. Of course there will be silos, into

A WISE NEGRO FARMER.

Butler Advocate.

Carter Bowdell, a negro farmer, residing near Opelika, Le county, Alabama, owns his farm of 880 acres. He has it well improved, well stocked and cultivates it well. He grows cotton as a surplus or cash crop and raises live stock and poultry, grows the food supply for man and beast at home and has a surplus to sell. The majority of our white farmers would do well to follow this method of farming.

COLORED MINISTER GOOD GARDENER.

Cleburne News, Heflin.

R. T. Terrell, a minister of the colored Baptist church, is perhaps the most successful gardener of his race, but it is there are some whites who might profit to see what he has and is doing. Instead of his front yard being "decorated" with jimpson and hogweeds, dogfennel and apricots, Terrell uses all this and other waste land about his home to the production of cabbage, onions, Irish potatoes, tomatoes and various kinds of vegetables. He says he has already marketed twenty dollars worth of onions—the preacher calls the "skullions"—and he may be correct. And, too, Terrell is reliable.

MONTGOMERY NEGROES IN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Foremost Colored Farmers Join Organization in Numbers.

The colored farmers of Montgomery county met at the State Normal School on Saturday. There were several of the prominent farmers from all sections of Montgomery county present. L. A. Edmonson, county Agent, and J. R. Witt, of Limestone county. These officials were presented to the audience by M. A. Blackwell. Mr. Edmonson spoke in general of the Farm Bureau and cooperative marketing, and urged that every farmer of Montgomery county become a member.

J. R. Witt was introduced as a representative of the Farm Bureau. Mr. Witt stated his relation to the Farm Bureau and his desire that every farmer should become a member, because he feels that co-operative marketing is today just as essential and necessary as producing.

Several of the colored farmers present who had been members of the Farm Bureau expressed their opinion of the organization and stated that it has been a saving to them in the marketing of their farm products. Up to date twenty of the leading negro farmers of Montgomery county are enrolled in the Cotton and Hay Associations. Agent Blackwell expressed a desire to have at least one hundred members in the association by September 15.

A WORTHY EXAMPLE

Sam Jones a thrifty negro farmer living five miles out of Selma on his own place, is not worried over the crop outlook, as he raised eight bales of cotton this year on seven acres of land, he has plenty of corn to run him all the year and will have some to sell. He also has twenty-five head of cattle, about thirty hogs and has money in the bank.—Selma Times.

We like to find and reprint new stories like the foregoing. It goes to show what the negro farmer can do, if he will only make the proper effort.—Columbus Enquirer-Sun.

For one The Progress-Argus believes the negroes should be encouraged for the progress they have made. Sixty-one years ago the negroes in the South were slaves. Just a few hundred years ago they were savages in Africa. What they know about farming they have learned from white men.

The South needs more negroes of the Sam Jones type. After all is said and done the South will have the negro for a long time. Some of them have gone North. Many have returned and more will return to Dixie. Those who are with us should be encouraged in the matter of diversified farming and live stock growing.

Agriculture — 1923.
Improvement of.

Arkansas.

NEGRO FARMERS TOUR.

Chaperoned by Prominent Business Men of Helena.

HELENA, Ark., Aug. 8.—The annual tour of negro farming districts occurred on Tuesday and Friday of last week. The touring party was composed of negro farmers of the various districts and the following business men of Helena: George A. Sanford, C. S. Fitzpatrick, John M. Quarles and John Crenshaw. On Tuesday the communities visited were Southland, Blackfoot, Marvell, Turner, Coffey Creek, Sanduck and Bethlehem. Inspection of farm crops; club plots club pigs, poultry and home premises showed many of them to be in satisfactory condition. In some instances they were highly so. Club members entertained the tourists in community club groups with luncheons consisting of cakes, pies, custard, fried chicken, ice cream, cold drinks and watermelons in nearly every community. On Friday the party covered the lower part of the county, extending as far as Ferguson. Here also the crops and live stock were in splendid condition. Here also the tourists were equally well entertained. As a result of these tours a wider acquaintance, and thus a more splendid spirit of friendly rivalry and helpful co-operation is being built up. A greater degree of interest is also resulting from the stimulating effects of the visits and interchange of views for better home life and more profitable farming.

Commercial Appeal
Sunday
Mar 11 1923

Agriculture — 1923

Arkansas.

Improvement of.

TTLE ROCK ARK. GAZETTE
MARCH 12, 1923

PLANTATION TEN NTS WHO NEEDED NO SU. LIES.

On a large plantation in southern Arkansas there are 40 negro families. Heretofore all these families have applied at the plantation commissary on March 1 each year, which is "first supply day," for the means of subsistence. But on March 1 of this year 20 of these 40 tenant families needed no supplies. Not only have all the families in the past received supplies on the first day they could be had, but many have asked for money for Christmas. This year some of the tenants said on March 1 that they would not want any supplies for two months.

The explanation of the improved circumstances in which these negro tenant families on one of the state's big cotton plantations find themselves lies in the fact that they are adopting the system that is described by the terms "live-at-home" and "profitable farming." Many of these negro families have a cow apiece. All of them have some pigs and chickens. They have raised corn and sorghum and made syrup. They have learned how to put up and preserve food.

It has been said that a valuable agency for improving the economic condition of the negro tenant family is the common tin pail with a tight cover. This furnishes a cheap and convenient means for putting away sorghum for winter use.

Agriculture - 1923.
Improvement of.

Missouri.

NEGRO HAS FIRST BLOOM.

CROSNO, Mo., July 14.—The first cotton bloom in Mississippi County was found on the farm of Mat Corbitt July 5. This cotton is raised by Joe Coleman, colored. He has 40 acres to perfect stand and perfect growth and square formation, as fine as ever grew in the Mississippi delta. Joe is a Mississippi negro, farming his first crop in Southeast Missouri, and is above the average in intelligence and energy. This county is raising its first cotton crop and a bumper crop is in sight, with all conditions favorable. A bale-to-the-acre yield is expected.

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California.

SEC'Y. OF AGRICULTURE TOURS LOWER CALIF.

Inspects Lands Near Negro Colonization Property.

(Pacific News Bureau.)

Brawley, California. April 13.—Cementing more firmly the cordial relations already existing between California and Lower California, Henry B. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture has just completed an extensive tour of the Lower California agricultural districts lying immediately south of the border and extending from the Imperial Valley to the Coast, accompanied by Governor Josef Lugo and staff of Lower California.

SECRETARY WALLACE PLEASED WITH DEVELOPMENT

Richmond Planet
Richmond Va.
4/14/23

After visiting the Imperial Valley cotton fields, the forest reserves and farming projects and spending a night in the San Jacinto Mountains, Secretary Wallace speaking at a banquet of representative American and Mexican business men and agriculturalists expressed himself as highly pleased with the rapid development which he noted everywhere.

MEXICAN GOVERNOR PROMISES PROTECTION

Governor Lugo in extending an invitation to American business interests to locate there, promised protection to American interests in Lower California and said that they would be accorded every courtesy and protection

NEGRO FARMERS DEMONSTRATION BUREAU PLANNED

In a recent communication from Governor Lugo to General Counsel Hugh MacBeth of the Lower California Mexican Land and Development Co. of Los Angeles, the Negro syndicate controlling over 8,000 acres of valuable farming, oil and mining lands in Lower California; assurance was given that the Agricultural Dept. of Mexico would lend whatever co-operation possible in assisting the Negro syndicate to establish and maintain a Negro farm demonstrating bureau and model farm for the purpose of educating the Negro colonists the proper methods of farming California fruits, nuts, grapes and various crops on their Mexican properties.

Agriculture — 1923.

Georgia.

Improvement of.

Straightening Out Georgia
A Big Job for Big Men

Editor Constitution: I know the forceful efforts of The Constitution to the upbuilding of Georgia since the days of its four-page beginning. I appreciate its extended energies in that direction in the present critical emergency.

It appears to me as though the various discussions of the negro migration were more in the trend of sympathetic diplomacy than in accord with serious judgment of economic necessities. From personal experience on the farm I know the hazard of their going and the threatening of its reality. I know it is bad for us, and worse for them, but in all the days of our existence these periodical disturbances have been a part of our history. Perhaps they are the driving force of evolution.

There are present causes for these conditions that we cannot remove by criticism, denunciation or passing the blame to others. It is time we were taking invoice of ourselves, regardless of inherited superiority, and face our ego to the methods of a new economic pressure.

There are three main causes for the negro emigration from Georgia, the prime one being the demoralizing influence of cotton crop failure and the inability of the negro to get credit supplies on other crops, at the making of which he is a universal failure. Second, the spirit of lawlessness by irresponsible and ignorantly prejudiced whites against the negro, emboldened by illicit distilleries, consequent drunkness, night marauding and warnings.

Third, a new idea of living and working conditions, civic rights, wage earnings and a knowledge of opportunities in other sections, impressed by the returning negro draft contingent, also resentful of the warnings and lack of farm credits—possibly a crude taint of socialism.

In our hysterics over the negro we give but little thought to the fact that a large number of our younger white men, single and with families, are also following the trail of the negro from causes of earning necessity. These things are the aftermath of war, where men have been taken into new sections in service and learn that the world is bigger than was apparent by the old range of the setting sun beyond the pine tops.

Can the remedy be in the passing of restriction laws violating the rights of the individual to seek betterment of his conditions? You do not believe in any such thing, and you cannot blame him for his purpose of improvement. A man is an imbecile who will stick in the rut of need while the remedy is in sight.

The call of the hour is to make Georgia industrially equal to the sections that are enticing our labor by the offer of better wages and constant employment. This cannot be accomplished by mid-week luncheons and small fry screeches of prosperity, with the heralding of devices by which others may strive to rebuild. It is the service of big men whose welfare is involved in the upkeep of the plant that moves to their interest. We must have whole-hearted co-operation, but this can only come through individual leadership, equal to the task of formulation, organization, centralizing to a single purpose and then moulding public sentiment and investment to its grip. It has been the individual foresight capacity and determined purposes of men that have built great enterprises.

It is a sorry section that sends its labor to other sections to make a living and then sends its scrappings of earnings to pay the wage account. A large portion of Georgia is now living upon returns from the sawmill graze, denuding forests, choking farm operations and then spending the income for food and feed of labor and mules for imported products. Can you imagine the future of it?

And in this wonderful Georgia of ours, fertile to anything that grows, every month in the year a possible producer, every climatic advantage, where two crops may be grown in the same land in the season, where cattle may range on sustaining pastures the entire year, where dairy products can be made for a third less and sold for a fourth more, where every conceivable advantage is offered to intelligent and willing effort!

And there are thousands who could be inspired to the vision of our possibilities if we only possessed the spirit to mark the way. This does not exist locally or within the province of the small real estate dealer. It is not a call to philanthropy, but to the leadership of men who can concentrate forces and means to take up selected sections of five or six thousand acres of land, subdivide into small farms and force settlement by the influence of favorable terms and power of publicity. And it is not wholly a matter of patriotism and civic pride, but an investment to yield profit in reclamation as well as in the advanced values of original sales. We cannot do the whole state at once, but we can plant these picture spots to a contagion of widespread influence that will take its hold. Instead of mortgaged lands, that are inevitably bound for final loss, let us move in some way to save the homes of those who are here as well as to get new home owners. It is a big job for big men, but it is the only way out of the ruts.

H. A. WRENCH.

Madison, Ga., June 7, 1923.

EAST COTTON PICKING
2,530 Pounds in Four Days, Is Woman's Record.

Griffin, Ga., September 25.—(Special.)—Georgia Holland, negro woman, employed on Mitchell Walker's farm in Cabin's district, broke all records in cotton picking last week when she picked 2,530 pounds of the fleecy staple in four days.

Her record each day for the four days she worked is as follows: Monday, 609 pounds; Tuesday, 647 pounds; Wednesday, 687 pounds; Thursday, 587 pounds. Total, 2,530 pounds.

The cotton was carefully weighed by Mr. Walker, prominent Spalding county farmer.

THE NEGRO CONFERENCE.

When the leading colored citizens of Georgia gathered here on July 4, to discuss cause and effect of the migration of their race to the industrial centers of the north and east, their deliberations attracted the thoughtful attention of all white citizens who have the best interests of the state at heart.

It is interesting to hear what the most thoughtful among the African race in our midst have to say in regard to Georgia's attitude toward their people.

In the letter, addressed to "all white citizens of Georgia," but primarily intended for the members of the general assembly, now in session, there is food for serious thought for us all. And there is, it must be admitted, cause, in that letter, for very serious searching of heart and admission of failure for the white race. Honesty cannot deny that the negroes make out a good case on many of the grounds on which they base their claim for better treatment.

Perhaps greatest stress is laid, by the negroes themselves, on the lack of fair opportunities for education provided by the state. It is stated that out of $750,000 appropriated last year for higher education, only $15,000 of this was for negro institutions. It is also declared that there is a total lack of agricultural colleges for the negroes, though there is one in each congressional district for the whites, in addition to the Agricultural college at Athens. And the negroes with justice ask, "How can the colored farmer adopt profitable, diversified farming, in place of the boll weevil-ruined cotton raising, if you don't teach him how?"

The complaint against the average housing conditions for negroes, both in the cities and the rural communities, is also well founded. It is useless to point out a few high-class negro homes and pretend that they are typical. They are not and we only fool ourselves when we shut our eyes to the wretched hovels in which the large majority of the negroes live.

It would, in truth, be the best investment we could make, to raze these insanitary, ugly, disease and crime-breeding shacks, and provide, in their stead, simple and comfortable homes. The reduction in crime and disease alone would pay the expense in a very few years, even forgetting altruistic reasons entirely.

While the negro frankly says he does not want to leave the south, reasonable men cannot criticize him for leaving when staying means no education for his children, no comforts for himself and unfair wages for his labor.

THE SAVANNAH MEETING.

Five hundred citizens of Savannah and south Georgia met Thursday evening in that city, at the open forum of the Young Men's Dynamo of the board of trade, and discussed Georgia as an agricultural state, and the problems that are necessarily forcing a reconstruction of agriculture as an industry.

These problems are first of all the boll weevil, which means that cotton must be cultivated only as a surplus money crop, under a system of intensification and reduced acreage to the plow; and, second, that the surplus acreage, formerly planted to cotton, must be utilized in the growing of food and feed, and other commodities for which cash markets must be created.

The Savannah News, commenting on the meeting, took the very liberal and the strikingly creditable position that—

"The meeting was one which brought home to Savannah the fact that the suggested state port and terminals project is not one of any city, not one primarily for the port city of Georgia—but a big, a tremendous opportunity for productive Georgia, for the farmers of the state who make the only wealth that in the same place, year after year, is actually created."

There is no disputing the fact that a great warehouse and refrigerating plant, somewhere on the coast of Georgia, either privately or state owned, will aid materially a general marketing program, by which a balanced system of agriculture can be made the more profitable in Georgia.

It has been demonstrated that the scientific principle of group or collective marketing is correct grading and packing, and the ability to hold and release the commodities of production, as the consuming markets will absorb them. In order to do that there should be, through some process of correct financing, a great terminal plant on the coast sufficiently adequate to prepare the commodities for market and to hold them in storage, in cold storage if necessary, until marketing conditions warrant their release; and the producers thus orderly subjected to a fair marketing system controlled by supply and demand.

These points were stressed at the great Savannah banquet, which was notable even in that city of proverbial reputation for entertainment and the discussions took that broad and most commendable attitude of bettering Georgia's economical status without regard to section or city or interest, except as revolved around the whole people of Georgia, and their economic needs.

On account of conditions, of which the negro exodus and impending farm labor shortage, is an important one, there must be a reconstruction of the farm program in this state; there must be a balanced system of production; there must be intelligent scientific marketing—and there must be a conservation of man-power, a reawakening of responsibilities, and a close co-operation among all the people, including closer bonds between the city and the country.

From reports it was a broad-minded, broad-visioned meeting at Savannah, and every city in the state should have just such an assembling of business people and farmers of the section to discuss Georgia problems from a Georgia viewpoint, and not altogether Georgia problems from a purely local viewpoint.

Farm Management and Farm Mortgages

BY MARTIN V. CALVIN

Inquiries frequently come to the writer hereof as to the number of farms in Georgia operated by owners and managers, and tenants. The inquirers find an open door for the subject is full of interest; it touches the heart of the agricultural situation to which latter so much thought is being given not only south, but throughout the north.

The western states, of course, are subject of lines of inquiry somewhat similar, but the western states do not grow cotton!

You see, the widespread and sincere interest in agricultural conditions in Georgia and in every cotton producing state is traceable to the fact that "Cotton is King." That striking phrase was first used by David Christy, in 1855, in a title to a book—"Cotton is King; or Slavery in the Light of Political Economy." In a speech in the United States senate, James H. Hammond, of South Carolina, March, 1858, used the expression, "Cotton is King." The same year Governor Manning, of South Carolina, in a speech at Columbus, used the quotation. David Christy's creation, after the lapse of 68 years, is still vigorous and adapted to the times in which we live.

Facts and Figures.

I gave you the foregoing incident by way of pleasant introduction to a brace of facts and figures which I feel confident will interest you. The fact about "facts and figures" is, that you owe it to yourself and your friends to be actively interested in them; for they are history in progress.

The prosperity of our agricultural interests depends so greatly on farm management. I wish first to acquaint you with conditions in our state in the matter of home-owned farms and our tenant system. Given the total number of farms in Georgia, you will wish to be informed as to the number which are operated by the owners and managers, and the number in the hands of tenants. Also, the per cent of tenants who are negroes.

I purpose to supply you with the facts and figures of the decades 1880-1920 which embrace five census years. You will at once note the vast amount of valuable information laid before you. It will be with you whether you will lay it under contribution for use as opportunity offers or can be made to offer.

xOf the 206,954 farms operated by tenants in 1920, 113,938, or 55 per cent, were in the hands of negroes.

In the paradeful display of facts and figures, just placed before you, is a succinct presentation of the true inwardness of farm management in Georgia. It is worthy of close study by all our people. I am sure that the figures, which are historic in the matter of results of the highest importance, will arrest your attention, for they have not heretofore been grouped in the comparative form above given.

Constructive Work the Demand of the Hour.

Existing conditions have brought us face to face with a set of entirely new problems. They involve labor, they relate to farm management, they carry suggestions full of radical changes which must be made without unnecessary delay. The tax problem, compared with the problems alluded to, is as easy of solution as "falling off a log" in a mill pond, in which latter boys are swimming or otherwise disporting in the cooling water.

A few years ago two or more New England states were seriously exercised over a problem presented by the discovery of an unusually large number of abandoned farms in the several states. We shall find ourselves confronted by a similar state of affairs. The unexpected and unsought change in our tenant system will bring to our attention an extraordinarily large number of unoccupied and uncultivated acres of tillable farming land. Such state of affairs cannot be indifferently considered. Sound thinking, wise planning and judicious management will be imperative. You see, no man can live unto himself! Duties of the most exacting nature will soon await us because of the probable state of affairs to which reference has just been made.

Owned Farms Under Mortgage.

Now we come to a very interesting subject—interesting for the reason that it is vitally important. It is not true that to place a mortgage on an owned and occupied home, in the country or in a city, is to invite loss of home—probably bankruptcy. To any man gifted with business foresight and possessed of energy and force of character, a mortgage, under well considered conditions, will prove, as it has many times proved, to be to him a very tower of strength. A mortgage is a straight business proposition, and must be handled in a business-like manner.

Here is a table based on facts which I carefully assembled and put in line for your information. Let me tell you something worth while as to mortgages in Georgia: Barring the latter seventies and the early eighties, there were exceedingly few mortgages foreclosed up to and inclusive of 1920. That is a fine record. It is high compliment to the good faith and honesty of the borrowers. During 1921 and 1922, these was ex necessitate rei, a decidedly unfavorble change in the record:

Mortgages in Ten Cotton States.

Of the total number of farms operated by owners, (1,132,032), 308,779 were mortgaged. That is 22.7 per cent. The amount of the total mortgages was $508,410,240 which was 22.7 per cent of the value of land and building of the encumbered property. The general average interest rate was 7 per cent. In rank, Georgia holds a conservative position.

Farms Operated By Owners in Ten Cotton States, Mortgaged, 1920.

STATE	Total Number Farms	Number Operated by Owners	Number Reported Mortgaged	Amount of Mortgage Debt	Int. Rate
North Carolina	269,763	151,376	24,499	$31,968,285	6.0
South Carolina	192,692	67,724	14,299	25,153,227	7.3
Georgia	310,732	102,123	23,135	37,671,385	7.3
Alabama	256,099	107,089	27,854	29,103,101	7.5
Mississippi	272,101	91,310	23,990	32,646,772	6.5
Louisiana	135,463	57,254	11,783	20,490,966	7.2
Tennessee	252,774	148,082	32,264	49,836,266	6.2
Texas	436,033	201,210	69,940	172,166,818	7.3
Arkansas	252,664	112,647	33,990	38,539,428	7.8
Oklahoma	191,988	93,217	47,025	73,434,422	6.6

Year	Whole number Farms	Number Operated By Owners	Number Reported As Mortgaged	Value of Land & Bldgs. Mort'gd
1920	310,732	102,123	23,135	$124,579,125
1910	291,027	98,268	18,257	37,526,524

Year	Amt. of Mortg.	Rate of Int.	Av. Val. Farm	Average Amt. Debt pr. F'rm
1920	37,671,385	7.3	$5,990	$1,811
1910	10,988,409	—	2.712	794

Year	Total No. of Farms in State	No. Operated by Owners and Managers	Per Cent of Whole	Number Operated by Tenants	Per Cent
1880	138,626	76,451	55.2	62,175	44.8
1890	171,071	79,477	46.5	91,594	53.5
1900	224,691	90,131	40.1	134,560	59.9
1910	291,027	100,047	34.4	190,980	65.6
1920	310,732	103,778	33.4	x206,954	66.6

STFARMS.

Figu[illegible]ual interest to the student [illegible]ics in Georgia are contained in a recent article compiled and written by Martin V. Calvin, statistician for the state department of agriculture. They deal with the number of farms operated either by their owners or managers, and those operated by tenants, in the state.

From 1880 to 1920, the period covered in the report, the percentage of tenant worked farms in the state increased from 44.8 per cent to 66.6 per cent, while for the same time the total number of farms more than doubled, jumping from 138,626 in 1880 to 310,732 in 1920.

Practically twice as many farms were in the hands of tenants in 1920 as were operated by owners or managers, 103,778 being the owner-operated total, as compared with 206,954 tenant-managed.

Of these 206,954 in the hands of tenants, 55 per cent, or 113,938, were in the hands of negroes.

These figures are of particularly vital interest at this time, when the state is faced with the prospect of seeing many of her valuable acres lying idle through lack of hands to till and cultivate the soil. The steady migration, both of white and colored farmers, to the cities and to the north and east, is undeniably leaving a serious shortage of agricultural labor, and reports show that many Georgia farms have been abandoned since the first of January this year.

Mr. Calvin, in the same paper, refers also to the number of farms on which there are mortgages. Very correctly, he denies that a mortgage is an undesirable financial adjunct. To any man gifted with business foresight and possessed of energy and force of character, says Mr. Calvin, a mortgage, under well considered conditions, will prove to be to him a very tower of strength. A mortgage, he continues, is a straight business proposition and must be handled in a business-like manner.

The figures for the entire state show that, barring the latter seventies and early eighties, when business conditions passed largely beyond the control of the individual, there were exceedingly few mortgages foreclosed, up to and inclusive of 1920. That is a splendid record for the state. It is a high compliment to the good faith and honesty of the borrowers.

For the year 1920 there were, in Georgia, 23,135 farms reported as mortgaged, out of a total of 310,732—103,778 of which were operated by their owners. The value of the mortgaged land and buildings was given as $124,579,125, an increase since 1910 from $37,526,424. The average rate of interest was 7.3 per cent and the average valuation per farm is given as $5,990. Offsetting this the average amount of debt per farm, under the mortgages, is $1,811.

Possibly through encouragement in sound business borrowing, and through the rapid improvement in marketing methods, which is resulting in greater stability of price to the producer, conditions may be so improved that in large measure the trend away from the farms toward the cities may be checked.

In any event, the figures furnished by Mr. Calvin are worthy of the most careful consideration and will have a large bearing upon the future working out of a solution to many of the economic problems of [illegible] state.

Agriculture — 1923.
Improvement of.

Georgia.

THE SAVANNAH MEETING.

Five hundred citizens of Savannah and south Georgia met Thursday evening in that city, at the open forum of the Young Men's Dynamo of the board of trade, and discussed Georgia as an agricultural state, and the problems that are necessarily forcing a reconstruction of agriculture as an industry.

These problems are first of all the boll weevil, which means that cotton must be cultivated only as a surplus money crop, under a system of intensification and reduced acreage to the plow; and, second, that the surplus acreage, formerly planted to cotton, must be utilized in the growing of food and feed, and other commodities for which cash markets must be created.

The Savannah News, commenting on the meeting, took the very liberal and the strikingly creditable position that—

"The meeting was one which brought home to Savannah the fact that the suggested state port and terminals project is not one of any city, not one primarily for the port city of Georgia—but a big, a tremendous opportunity for productive Georgia, for the farmers of the state who make the only wealth that in the same place, year after year, is actually created."

There is no disputing the fact that a great warehouse and refrigerating plant, somewhere on the coast of Georgia, either privately or state owned, will aid materially a general marketing program, by which a balanced system of agriculture can be made the more profitable in Georgia.

It has been demonstrated that the scientific principle of group or collective marketing is correct grading and packing, and the ability to hold and release the commodities of production, as the consuming markets will absorb them. In order to do that there should be, through some process of correct financing, a great terminal plant on the coast sufficiently adequate to prepare the commodities for market and to hold them in storage, in cold storage if necessary, until marketing conditions warrant their release; and the producers thus orderly subjected to a fair marketing system controlled by supply and demand.

These points were stressed at the great Savannah banquet, which was notable even in that city of proverbial reputation for entertainment; and the discussions took that broad and most commendable attitude of bettering Georgia's economical status without regard to section or city or interest, except as revolved around the whole people of Georgia, and their economic needs.

On account of conditions, of which the negro exodus and impending farm labor shortage, is an important one, there must be a reconstruction of the farm program in this state; there must be a balanced system of production; there must be intelligent scientific marketing—and there must be a conservation of man-power, a reawakening of responsibilities, and a close co-operation among all the people, including closer bonds between the city and the country.

From reports it was a broad-minded, broad-visioned meeting at Savannah, and every city in the state should have just such an assembling of business people and farmers of the section to discuss Georgia problems from a Georgia viewpoint, and not altogether Georgia problems from a purely local viewpoint.

Bearing Upon Question of White Immigration South

Editor Constitution: It occurs to us that the publication of the inclosed letter might beneficial to the efforts which are being made for white emigrants to the south.

HAYNES M'FADDEN,
Secretary Ga. Bankers Assn.
Atlanta, Ga., August 9, 1923.

309 S. 19th Street, Newark, N. J.
August 6, 1923.

Georgia Bankers Association—Dear Sirs:

Have read in Newark Sunday Call, issue of Augn 5, of scarcity of farm labor and idle farms in state of Georgia. This article was written from information supplied by your association.

The article was of much interest to me as I am looking for a place to move my family; somewhere away from congestion of a city.

I want to connect with a man who has paying fruit or poultry farm. A man who has had long experience in either or both. He must be a man of unquestionable character.

Would like to work on shares or any way that is just and reasonable to both parties as I could buy said farm.

I have some money, building-loan shares and Liberty bonds which I could close to start on my way. Have plenty of opportunities to buy farms near good markets, but am not prepared to do so with available money or experience. Am anxious and willing to work hard to get ahead if I can find suitable place.

Description of myself and family is as follows:

Am 37, wife and two children, boy, 12; baby, 18 months. All healthy and strong. American, Protestants. Have always been used to hard work and am not afraid of it.

I do not drink. I do smoke in moderation. Can give any references required.

I thought by writing to your association there might be some one of the members who could put me in touch with a place where I could take my family away from city and out in the open.

Thanking you in advance and hoping I will not inconvenience anyone in too great a measure, I am

WILLIAM RAYMOND FORSHAY.

SEP 15 1923

IN PLACE OF THE NEGRO

"The first pale rays of the dawn of a better day for the South," is the rather rhetorical but accurate enough characterization of the migration of negroes from this section to the North given by Judge Fortson of Georgia, in an address to newspaper men at Athens. Instead of resorting to measures to prevent the migration of the negroes, the Southern States should give it every encouragement, Judge Fortson thinks. As the negro goes "white men, of superior standards of living, of more intelligence, more energy and greater industry, will take his place," the Georgia jurist declares, and "our farms will gradually improve; labor prices will constantly advance; manufactures will increase; and the South will catch step with the rest of the nation."

That is a view which ought to be more generally impressed upon the South. There has been too much stress laid on the depletion of the labor supply of this section by the movement of the negroes to other parts of the country and too little on the relief that the migration is giving. If the negro is seeking employment and settlement elsewhere than in the South, it is not alone because higher wages are to be had but because economic changes are occurring in the South which are militating against the continuation of his easy life in this section. The ravages of the boll weevil have made it necessary for Southern farmers to employ more intelligence, industry and ingenuity in cultivation of the soil, which they are doing everywhere, diversifying agriculture, using better methods. It is going to require more skill and more energy for successful farming in the South hereafter than have been necessary to the making of a living and even the winning of fortune heretofore, and the easy-going, unreliable negro labor which has sufficed in the past will have to be replaced with a higher order. The crude methods of farming used by negro tenants and owners of little farms, which have produced cotton enough to pay the cost of living, will not do so any longer. Farm economies will have to be adopted of which the negro is ignorant and, perhaps, incapable. Scientific agriculture and variations of the industry, requiring a better mental equipment than the negro is possessed of will take the place of the old ways. Instead of all this being disastrous to the South, it will prove its salvation, in due time, however disturbing the transition may seem in process.

The presence of the negro in great numbers, with the low scale of wages and the low standards of living consequent has long been a bar to the immigration of desirable white settlers in the South, to whom the cheap and fertile lands and the genial climate of this region would naturally appeal. The stream of foreign immigration which has flowed to the West and wrought such wonders in the development of that section has been diverted from the South largely because of the predominance of negro labor here. Southern farmers have been loath to change the conditions to which they have long been accustomed, especially because of the conviction that the negro was necessary to the cultivation of cotton, and have resisted promising efforts to bring white settlers to the South, as witness the abortive undertaking some twenty years ago to bring European immigrants directly to South Carolina, which was abandoned almost as soon as it had been begun because of opposition by white farmers. The migration of negroes from the South should change this. Instead of attempting to check this migration the fact should be advertised widely. It ought to be made a prominent feature of the advertising campaign which is to be undertaken in behalf of this State, as evidence of a betterment of conditions, an improvement in the standard of industry and the offering of greater opportunities for intelligence and energy.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution

Work of State In Giving Negro Farm Training

Editor Constitution: In The Constitution some days ago I saw an account of a meeting that was held in Atlanta on July 4 by a group of negro leaders, including a number of educators and preachers, for the purpose of discussing the negro exodus and placing before the people of the state some of the reasons why so many negroes were leaving the rural districts.

Among the many reasons set forth at that time, and which I have heard discussed since, was the fact that there are no schools in Georgia where the negro children could study agriculture and no opportunity for the negro farmers to study the new systems of farming.

As a matter of information I would like to inform the readers of The Constitution that last year the Georgia state board for vocational education co-operated with the public schools for the negro children of the state in employing twenty-two negro teachers of agriculture, and is ready and willing to add a number of teachers to that list for the coming year. We will be able to pay one-half of the salary of such teachers.

These teachers for the most part are located at county training schools. They are expected to teach agriculture to the boys and the girls in school and will organize evening classes for the adult farmers.

Every pupil grows a crop, or raises some live stock under the supervision of the teacher. Last year two of these teachers each sold more than $15,000 worth of farm products that their students produced.

PAUL W. CHAPMAN,
State Supervisor of Agricultural Education.
Athens, Ga.

...y on High Road to Normalcy, ...o Raise 25,000 Bales of Cotton in 1923

Typical Carroll county cottonfield, a farm of C. B. McLendon, who appears at the left.

Carrollton, Ga., November 18.— (Special.)—Carroll county is on the high road to "normalcy," if in fact, she has not already arrived. Avigilance on the part of each and every farmer, conservative estimate of the cotton production for 1923 is between 20,000 and 25,000 bales, whereas in normal times the average production was something like 30,000. And we are also to consider the appreciable reduction in acreage planted in cotton, since the boll weevil has taught the farmer the lesson of diversification.

The things that have done most to speed her on her way have been:

(a) The Lord has been good to us. All lovers of Mark Twain will recall that Huckleberry Finn said there seemed to be two kinds of Providence: "The kind that Miss Watson knowed, and the kind that the Widow Douglas knowed." This year we have certainly been under the care and keeping of the "Providence that Widow Douglas knowed." The weather conditions have been ideal. It has rained (and it has shone) on the just and the unjust impartially and just at the right season every time.

(b) The fact that Carroll county is made up of small farm owners. Our acres have been tended by people who owned them, and hence gave a more careful and intelligent care than the tentant class could be expected to give.

(c) We have used pure bred cotton seed. Something over three car loads of two or three of the best varieties of pure bred seed was bought and used. The money (used as a revolving fund) being advanced by our three banks and a few broad visioned individuals. (Of this co-operative spirit we will have more to say later on.)

(d) We have fought the boll weevil, persistently, intelligently and scientifically by using Calcium arsenate.

(e) We have used quick acting fertilizers, and lots of it.

(f) Then last but not least, eternal vigilance on the part of each and every farmer.

Farmer the "Whole Hog."

We are fond of saying that the farmer is the backbone of the country. Well, in Carroll he is the "whole-hog!" Carroll being fundamentally an agricultural county, the very fabric of our economic life threatens to topple when crops fail. A good part of it did topple in 1921. And people of the county began to realize that if it were ever to be built back, something must be done to combat the boll weevil. There was another thing that Carroll had to combat early in 1922, more poisonous and destructive than the boll weevil and that was the deadly miasma of discouragement and inertia that was weakening the moral forces of our people. Our broad acres lay idle in many places; our farmers flocked to the cities, to public works, any where in fact, where a livelihood was promised them, leaving the women and children at home to stare stolidly out over barren fields, while the "mills of the bankrupt courts ground slowly, but exceedingly fine."

To combat this discouragement on the part of the farmer, and to put hope and spirit into the fight was the work of a broad-visioned men of the county and an up-hill pull. A campaign for the purpose of educating the farmer up the use of scientific methods in fighting the boll weevil, and to strengthen his morale by convincing him that it could be done was waged. Here and there an obstreperous individual, who was a 'sho nuff farmer" and didn't believe in none of this "scientific flapdoodle" threw a cog in the wheel by saying, as he held forth on the public square: "Tain't no use; them pesky critters has got us beat and I am going to give up." But such an individual was not allowed to give up. A committee was sent to sit up with him until he saw daylight and agreed to "carry on"

Thus by the dint of much talk on the part of scientific men brought here for the purpose, of much information scattered by the trade board by tireless work on the part of the farm bureau, and much persuasion on the part of our progressive bankers and business men our farmers were brought to the point where they agreed to fight.

Arms and Ammunition.

Now that public opinion had been molded, and they were ready to fight the question of arms and ammunition arose. Where was the calcium arsenate to be had? Perhaps their faith was not yet strong enough to "put out," and certainly their credit was not strong. So a fund of $4,600.00 was contributed by our banks, our business firms and a few individuals—a revolving fund to be used for the purchase of arsenate and guns to put it on with. A highly trained man with a veritable army of volunteer workers, was sent throughout the county to demonstrate the proper use of this arsenate.

A gratifying result of all this activity was shown by the production last year. We produced 18,000 bales, two or three times as much as our neighbor counties. However, the most gratifying result was the spirit that it put into the fight for 1923. We had proven that the boll weevil could be controlled.

Let me produce the evidence that he can be:

J. D. Powell, who lives in the south western part of our county planted 2 1-2 acres in cotton; he used Wannamaker Premium Big Boll seed; he used 8 tons of compost; he used 1,900 pounds of commercial fertilizer; he used 75 pounds of calcium arsenate in dust form in 3 applications; he plowed deep and planted May 24. From this he has gathered two five hundred pound bales of cotton; he has still from this acreage 1,250 lbs of seed cotton. He produces the figures to show that he has received a net profit from this acreage over $400.00.

This is not the "garden spot of our county. It is average land. We have many farmers scattered over the county who have not done quite as well, but space forbids that we name them all.

It Can Be Done.

The cotton crop of 1923 has convinced Carroll county that the boll weevil can be controlled. We are already beginning the battle of 1924. Circulars are being broadcast over the county suggesting that the farmer plow up his cotton stalks and thus destroy the hybernating place of the weevil, and the suggestion is being taken with gratifying promptness.

Looking at our county today the "ravages of the boll weevil" hasn't quite the mournful sound that it had in 1921-1922. Verily:

"Adversity like the toad, ugly and venomous, carries yet a precious jewel in its head."

And out of this same adversity has come the idea of diversification. Being forced to turn to something beside cotton for money, Carrol county turned to poultry and she is now the banner poultry county of the state.

During the past twelve months there have been imported into the county 200,000 day old chicks. During that time a poultry association and several egg circles have been formed. One egg circle alone—The Kinney Circle, has marketed between $32,000 and $35,000 worth of poultry products. Recently there has been established in the county incubators with an aggregate capacity of 40,000, the Kinney incubator with a 20,000 capacity and the A. & M. school incubator with a 20,000 capacity.

"I sold eggs and bought it," is not the burlesque on finance that it once was.

But the real jewel we have found has been the increased knowledge in scientific farming, and the spirit of cooperation that we have suggested in the above details of our fight.

The Manufacturers Record of March 8, 1923, after publishing an article on the "Co-operative Spirit of Carroll County" had this to say:

"Here is a spirit that fairly radiates the teaching of the Golden Rule. It is a spirit that stirs ones blood, as we think of what might be accomplished for the betterment of humanity in town and country.

"The story of what Carrollton and Carroll county is doing give promise of the stirring a nation-wide interest in a closer affiliation of business men of every community, and of the farmers of the adjacent territory. Limitless good awaits the development of this plan. If put into full operation in every part of the country it would bring about harmonious relations not only between the business man and the farmer; but also a closer spirit of friendship and cooperation between business men themselves and between farmers themselves. It would create a spirit of brotherhood, of humanity and would increase the prosperity of the town and the county to an extent that can not well be measured."

Agriculture — 1923.
Improvement of.

General

The Shifting Cotton Fields

(Observer, Charlotte, N. C.)

In 1920, when the people in this favored part of the cotton belt were thinking of the boll weevil as something to talk about later, Robeson County produced a crop of 77,045 bales and was regarded as one of the largest cotton counties in the South—which it was. But two years later, the best Robeson could do in the way of cotton production was 41,128 bales. This loss of almost 36,000 bales in so short a time might be taken as Boll Weevil Exhibit A. That is the way the weevil works when he gets into a section that has not learned how to handle him. Robeson has a fine farm demonstrator and we may expect the production in that territory to start on the upgrade again, as other counties that were eaten over in the early days of boll weevil ravages are doing. The county that produces the largest number of bales in the South, and that means in the world, is located in a former boll weevil hot bed. It is Bolivar County, in Mississippi, and last year it ginned just 2316 less than 100,000 bales The next largest cotton-growing county in the South is Mississippi, in Arkansas, which produced 93,953 bales. The third largest producer of cotton is also in Mississippi—the county of Sunflower, with an output of 85,434. Texas has the fourth and fifth largest cotton counties—Williamson, with 83,314, and Ellis, with 82,210 bales. Among the largest cotton States, Alabama has 41 counties out of 66 in which the 1922 crop was greater than that for 1919, 1920 or 1921: North Carolina, 35 out of 65; Mississippi, 37 out of 74. South Carolina, on the other hand, has no such counties; Oklahoma, only three, all small producers.

These facts, supplemental to those we have given about Robeson County, we draw from a letter issued by the Liberty Central Trust Company, of St. Louis, in which there is an entertaining statement bearing on the changes in the relative importance of Southern States as cotton producers, the upturns and downturns revealing surprising results in some cases. There are three areas in the cotton belt which have so far been exempt from boll weevil damage. These are in northwestern Texas, in area 1; southeast Missouri, northeast Arkansas and western Tennessee, in area 4; northern and western North Carolina and Virginia, in area 9. In this latter area, as a matter of course, but little cotton is grown. There are six areas which have been visited by the weevil and in which, as in the three areas not so visited, the totals in cotton production are on the up-grade. In the six are included: (2) The lower Rio Grande Valley, in Texas; (3) east Texas and southwest Louisiana; (5) part of the Yazoo Delta, in Mississippi; (6) eastern Mississippi, all of southern and part of northern Alabama and southwestern Georgia; (7) southeastern Georgia, and (8) Florida. The increase in production over these areas is attributed to larger acreages planted.

The authority from which we are quoting says that the small total for last year is due more than anything else to greatly reduced yields in South Carolina, Georgia and Oklahoma, where the boll weevil's activity was at its height. Those three States produced about two and one-half million bales less cotton in 1922 than in 1920. In most States, last season's results were quite satisfactory.

There were 795 counties which grew cotton in sufficient quantity to justify separate returns by the Census Bureau. In 421 the crop was equal to, or greater than, the acreage for the three years previous. In 226, or about one-third of the total, last season's yield was larger than in any one of the years 1919, 1920 and 1921. In other words, these 226 counties are tending to increase their production, by greater acreage, better growing methods, or, in a few cases, better luck.

Missouri's production last year was unprecedented. One county, Dunklin, stood 13th in total ginnings, in the list of 795, ranking higher than any county in such States as Oklahoma, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Just over the line in Arkansas, Mississippi County produced nearly 100,000 bales, ranking second in the United States. Six counties in this fourth district made a total half as great as for the entire State of South Carolina.

The remaining sections are in territory that has been subject to the boll weevil for some time. The sixth area is particularly worthy of study; it is unbroken, and very large in extent, and comprises counties many of which have suffered to the fullest from the pest. That there has been steady recovery seems evident, and gradual increases in production are likely in the future, though the high records of the past may never be attained. It is interesting to note that in Georgia the leading cotton county, Sumter, is in the southwest, where a few years ago weevil damage was exceedingly great. In 1919 Sumter county ranked 41st in the States; since then it has more than held its own, while the more important sections to the north have lost heavily from the weevil's first onslaughts It is probable that Oklahoma, Georgia and South Carolina will eventually be able to grow more cotton than at present. Past experience justifies this belief.

LITTLE ROCK ARK. GAZETTE
APRIL 1, 1923

HISTORY OF TWO ACRES OF CLOVER

Alternated Yearly With Cotton, Better Yields Result, Writer Says.

By A. D. M'NAIR.
(Extension Division, University of Arkansas.)

In the fall of 1917 two acres that had grown a crop of corn that year were prepared and sowed to bur clover on a farm belonging to Mrs. H. C. McCain of Little Rock, and rented by Lawrence Dozier, a negro. The farm is located near Tolteo, in the valley of the Arkansas river.

In 1918 and again in 1919 some of the cloverseed was saved and marketed, but on account of rainy Junes in both years, it was impossible to harvest more than a smaller part of the seed. During both of these years also, crab grass grew after the clover matured and was grazed by tethering cows on it.

In 1920 this land was planted in cotton, thus destroying the stand of volunteer clover which was on the land. Another two acres along side of it had been in cotton in 1919 and was planted in cotton in 1920.

The cotton following bur clover made 1,567 pounds of seed cotton per acre and the cotton which followed cotton along side of it made 910 pounds per acre. The gain, due to the clover, was 657 pounds of seed cotton per acre which at the current price of seed cotton, five cents per pound, meant a gain of $32.85 per acre.

In the fall of 1920 a good volunteer stand of bur clover came up in the cotton middles and this was grazed until April 1, 1921, when the cattle were taken off and the clover was allowed to grow and mature seed.

From June until the fall of 1921, crab grass grew on the land and since there was no fence around the land cattle were pastured on it by tethering.

In 1922 cotton was planted on the land, thus destroying the volunteer crop of clover and the adjacent two acres were planted in cotton also. This means that the othe rtwo acres along side of the bur clover were in cotton continuously in 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922.

Cotton Yield in 1922.

The yield of cotton in 1922 was as follows:

Following bur clover, 945 pounds of seed cotton per acre. Following cotton, 603 pounds per acre. This was a gain of 342 pounds per acre which, at the current price of eight cents per pound, in the seed, was worth $27.40 per acre.

The test in 1922 was not quite fair to the cotton following bur clover because the bur clover land was prepared by bedding whereas the other land was prepared by bedding and rebedding. The stand of cotton, on the bur clover land was not as good as the other land and this was probably due to the difference in preparation. If the stand had been as good, the yield would have been much larger.

This land has a rental value of $10 per acre and since the land lay out the alternate year it would be fair to charge two years' rent to the crop following bur clover.

On the other hand, I believe that the grazing value of the bur clover plus the grazing value of the crab grass which followed it, was equal to the rental value of the land even though ti was not grazed in the months of April and May.

There is a splendid volunteer stand of bur clover in the cotton middles at this writing, and this will be allowed to go to seed this year, after which the land could easily be planted in June corn if the tenant will do it, and his would not interfere with getting a volunteer crop of clover either in the fall of 1923 in the corn middles or in 1924 in the cotton middles.

This practice of growing cotton each alternate year and letting bur clover mature and reseed itself the other alternate year, suggests a process of cleaning cotton land of crab grass and some summer growing weeds. If the clover is followed by a crop of June corn the same year it would be easy to prevent crab grass from going to seed in the corn middles. Good cultivation and late cultivation would do it or a flock of sheep in the corn field in August and September would do it. The ears on June corn are so high that sheep cannot reach them. Also a light woven wire, even poultry netting tied to the corn stalks, will make a satisfactory fence for sheep.

Crab grass in cotton fields can be kept down by the good work even though it involves an extra hoeing in late July or August. Cotton laborers haven't much to do in August, anyway.

In four years' time, during which bur clover and June corn occupy the land the first and third years and cotton the second and fourth years and with practices as outlined, 99 per cent of the crab grass would be gone. At least that is the writer's estimate based on various observations.

SEARS-ROEBUCK PLANS FARM RESEARCH WORK

Atlanta Constitution

Chicago, November 21.—The establishment of Sears-Roebuck agricultural research foundation to determine essential facts relating to the farming industry, was announced today by Julius Rosenwald, president of the Sears-Roebuck company.

He said the foundation would be headed by "the most capable men to be found in the agricultural research field." A field force also is contemplated. The announcement set out that every phase of agricultural economics is to be studied.

"As business men," Mr. Rosenwald said, "we feel under a direct obligation to do everything we can to improve the farmer's condition. A careful survey has revealed to us that where the farmer needs help is in economy, in marketing his products

"The American farmer stands today as the most efficient farmer in the world. In production per man he has no equal. His problem is the disposal of the surpluses which he has piled up through better farming methods and it is essential that he reap the full reward for the use of these improved methods."

FARM POPULATION FALLING OFF AT THE RATE OF A MILLION A YEAR

HARD times on the farm are causing a rapid shift of population. Last year no less than 2,000,000 people gave up the effort to get a living out of the soil and moved to town. To offset this, upward of 900,000 left town for the country, a loss of 1,120,000, or about 3.6 per cent. of the whole farm population. The net reduction was not so heavy because there were 925,000 births on farms against 265,000 deaths. The final loss was 1.5 per cent.

New York Times

The low price of wheat in the West and the ravages of the boll weevil in the South were the two principal factors in this exodus. And the general depression of 1920 and 1921 had an especially depressing influence on farming. These conclusions and many other facts regarding the status of the American farm have been assembled by the Department of Agriculture in an effort to find out what is the matter with farm life.

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace views the situation hopefully. The fact that in July, August and September of last year the movement from farms increased more than 100 per cent. above normal reflected the prosperity of cities and towns, and he believes this movement was a "direct response to the willingness of the buying public to pay much higher prices for labor in the building trades, manufactures and industries than for labor on the farms."

Secretary Wallace also believes that the men who direct industry, commerce and finance are coming to realize more than ever before the necessity of bringing about what he terms a favorable adjustment for the farmer.

"They see the menace in conditions so unfavorable to agriculture as those of the last three years," he said. "They now understand more clearly that their own future is inseparably linked up with the farmer and that in doing what they can to help him get on his feet again they are helping themselves as well."

All the evidence shows that the problem of a decreasing farm population has to be solved. There was not a single group of States covered by the Department of Agriculture survey in which the farm population showed an increase. Looking over these groups one by one the story is the same from ocean to ocean and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf.

In the Middle Atlantic group—New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey—the farm population on Jan. 1, 1922, was estimated to be 1,889,000. Jan. 1 of this year it had decreased to 1,847,000. This took into account the excess of births over deaths, in the ratio of 43 births to every 15 deaths. If only the movement to and from farms had been considered it would have shown that the decrease was in excess of 100,000 persons.

Decrease Is General.

In the New England group, taking into consideration that births exceeded deaths by about 28,000, the farm population in the last year decreased from 540,000 to 525,000. In the South Atlantic group—West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida—the farm population decreased from 6,565,000 to 6,241,000, which indicated a net loss to agriculture in those great farming States of 324,000 persons. There were 231,000 births in 1922 against 64,000 deaths.

The next group, the East South Central—Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Lousiana—showed a net loss of about 180,000 persons. In the West South Central group—Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas—the number decreased from 4,532,000 on Jan. 1, 1922, to 4,375,000 at the end of the year, a net loss of 157,000. As in all other groups the loss was largely reduced by the normal increase. There were 38,000 deaths and the number of births exceeded 144,000.

In the farming States of the Middle West, the West North Central group—Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri—the farm population on Jan. 1, 1922, was approximately 5,245,000. On Dec. 31 last this total had decreased to 5,101,000, showing a loss of 144,000. In those States births totaled 130,000 and deaths 39,000.

The East North Central group—Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin—on Jan. 1, 1922, had an agricultural population of 4,981,000. Of these, 148,000 moved into towns and cities in the year just ended. The babies again came to the front. Births numbered 135,000 and deaths 41,000.

In the Mountain group of States—Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico—the loss by the movement from farms was 63,000, a decrease from 1,172,000 to 1,100,000. Births were 26,000 and deaths 7,000.

In the Pacific group—California, Oregon and Washington—it was expected that the farm population would show a substantial increase. Instead, it dropped about 47,000, a decrease from 997,000 on Jan. 1, 1922, to 950,000 at the end of the year. Births numbered about 20,000 and deaths 9,000.

The Department of Agriculture has prepared two charts, one showing the trend of the movement to and from farms during the fifty years between 1870 and 1920, and the second the trend in the three years that ended Dec. 31 last. These charts show that the population was practically stationary in 1920. The trend to town became unmistakable in the latter half of 1921 and is still under way.

Cities and towns are increasing at the average annual rate of about 4 per cent. and the farm population is decreasing at more than 1 per cent., taking into consideration the excess of births over deaths and all other favorable features.

Gray Silver, who directs the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington—the largest of all the farmer organizations—was asked to comment on the situation.

Farmers Are Discouraged.

"The Department of Agriculture's recent statistics," said Mr. Silver, "showing that one out of every sixteen farmers in the United States sold his farm last year, that the occupants of one out of every five farms moved either to other farms or elsewhere, and that 230,000 tenants discontinued farming altogether and sought some other occupation, prove statistically that the farmers have not been able to secure a proper return for their hard labor and the isolated life which they live.

"The Department of Agriculture has made public statistics showing that in a survey of 6,000 farms of more than average size, representing an average investment of $16,400 for capital and labor, the average owner-operator made the munificent return of $917 in 1922. This return included $202 in inventories of crops, livestock and machinery, leaving only available to pay mortgages, int on investment and living expenses.

"For a number of years farmers have received a very low return for their labor when interpreted in terms of money, but the year just passed and the preceding year broke all records. Referring again to the Department of Agriculture's figures, as applied to the purchasing power of the farmer in terms of farm products, we find that during 1922 his 1913 dollar on the average was worth 69 cents, and in November of that year it fell to 62 cents. The highest value throughout the year was in March, when it was worth 76 cents. In 1920 it was 86 cents. In the three war years the farmer's dollar advanced to $1.06, $1.12 and $1.11 respectively, but as an offset the wholesale price of other products advanced further. The wholesale price of commodities other than farm products and food were at $1.76, $1.86 and $1.95.

"All this grief has come to the farmer, although he is the most efficient man of his class in the world. It has come to him in spite of the many economies which he has practiced, in spite of his increasing employment of machinery and every labor-saving device available He has been struggling to kee under the yoke of the Europea with whom he is forced to com

"In China it requires seven far to support ten people in the cit the United States it requires only t Until the last few years of unfortun financial reverses our farmers have s cessfully competed with the millions peasants and coolies of Europe. The have sold their wheat in the markets o the world on a world price basis, and, by the use of machinery and the consequent small amount of man power per acre, have met their competitors at a common price.

"One of the greatest outstanding examples of the lack of progress, and what the United States might be if it had followed the same practices in regard to farming and industry, is in Egypt, where the farmers till the soil with the same kind of implements used 4,000 years ago. If we were to harvest all our wheat crop by the methods employed in Egypt, it would require 130,000,000 days, instead of 7,000,000 days driving modern machinery at full speed.

"The unprofitable returns from farming not only are reflected in the migration from farms, but in the shortage of labor, which seeks employment where more money is obtained with less effort and hardship. The Department of Agriculture's figures showed a shortage of labor on farms on April 1 of more than 11 per cent. This followed an excess of labor of almost that amount a year ago and an excess of 9 per cent. on that date of 1921."

The Government, executive as well as legislative branches, realizes the danger arising from desertion of the nation's farms and is giving study to the question in an effort to find some way to switch the rural population from its present minus position back into the plus column. This is one of the big things the new Congress will try to accomplish.

Agriculture — 1923.
Labor Conditions.

Mississippi.

HILL TENANTS URGED FOR THE DELTA FARMS

The Commercial Appeal

Planters of Leflore Get Behind Movement With a Will.

Memphis, Tenn.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Oct. 5.—A meeting of a number of representative planters of Leflore was held at the Chamber of Commerce rooms this morning on invitation of the Chamber of Commerce of Itta Bena and Greenwood, to consider a plan suggested by County Agent E. C. McInnis, which is designed to secure a desirable class of white tenants for the farms in the county, to make up the shortage of labor which has hampered farming operations for the past year.

10-5-23

The meeting was called to order by Senator W. M. Whittington, who presided in the absence of President S. I. Osborn of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. McInnis stated briefly his plan, which embodied the securing of addresses of only desirable farmers from the hill sections of Mississippi, and placing in their hands literature descriptive of Leflore County's advantages, together with places where lands are available.

Mr. McInnis was followed by President W. H. Rucker of the Itta Bena Chamber of Commerce, who heartily endorsed the plan and told of several instances in Leflore County where plantations are now supplied entirely with white labor and which is farming the lands better and in a more satisfactory manner than the former negro tenants, with a much higher yield per acre. Mr. Rucker stated that every member of the Chamber of Commerce of Itta Bena he had talked with endorsed the idea behind the plan, and that the matter would be considered by that body at its regular meeting tomorrow night.

The planters present on motion endorsed Mr. McInnis' plans, and appointed a committee composed of S. I. Osborn, E. C. McInnis and W. H. Rucker to secure a detailed list of the needs of the planters in labor.

The meeting unanimously recommended to all planters that they subscribe the necessary funds, which will be small, to put the plan in operation, and approved it as being the only feasible plan of co-operation in putting the planter and the tenant in touch with each other. It was stated that ten times the amount of labor necessary to make good the present shortage can be secured, but it was held that plan was doubly necessary in order that proper investigation be made of the tenants in order that none but the more desirable class will be secured for Leflore County.

MORE WHITE LABOR ON FARMS OF DELTA

Farmers Not Bothered Now by Negro Exodus.

The Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Nov. 3.—"The old order changeth, yielding place to the new," and strong exemplification of this is to be found in the labor situation in the delta during the year that is now passing into history and is to be found in the expectations for the next year. This year Coahoma County had less than 3 per cent of its farm labor white people, but next year indications are that the percentage will be between 15 and 20. Within 8 or 10 years, according to estimates by some of the most conservative of our business men, the statistics will show that the labor is 50-50 white and black. The present period is the first time in history that the black man has been offered any real competition on the southern farm in the delta, and if he expects to hold his own he will have to bestir himself and give his employer more profitable labor.

It is perfectly reasonable to believe that the white man of the hill farm will not remain on his poorly soiled land when real inducements are offered him in the fertile sections of the delta. And with white labor already proven satisfactory on numbers of the farms where it has been employed for the past two years, is it not reasonable to believe that these real inducements will continue to be offered as they are being offered in the present year.

11-4-23

Farmers Highly Pleased.

Scores upon scores of planters in this county, Coahoma, will work sections of their properties next year with white people, most of whom have been brought in from the hills, and the next few years are expected to show a constantly increasing percentage of this labor. Due to the negro's migratory movement northward, many of the planters have already found it necessary to import white labor and with hardly an exception they express themselves as highly pleased with what might be termed an innovation. Next year many of the plantations will depend almost entirely upon this class of labor, two of these being the Carson brothers of Farrell and the Burk Planting Company, also of the Farrell neighborhood.

Dr. W. M. Carson, the senior member of the Carson brothers firm, has said, with reference to white farm labor, "This class of labor is reliable. They will not jump you overnight, but if they see that they are going to have a loss, they will stick by their crop until it is made, take their loss and then, if they still so desire, leave the place. I expect to work the whole plantation with white people. We furnish them with money instead of supplies. If they own their own teams, they get two-thirds of the crop, and if we have to furnish them with teams they get one-half. They handle their own share of the crop, selling where they please. They don't tear down plantations; they build them up. They take a pride in the appearance of their homes and they not only keep up improvements that have been made but lend individual efforts to the new improvement work. On this one thing alone we will save an enormous sum of money as in the past a good part of our profits has gone for repairs and improvements, which within a few years had to be done over owing to the slipshod care of the negro."

The Carson brothers will work about 70 families next year, have provided splendid school facilities to take care of an excepted school enrollment of 200 pupils, while the place has a gravel road through it and is supplied with well driven pump water that has been tested and found good. They farm between 1,500 and 2,000 acres.

Exclusive Farm for Whites.

The Burk Planting Corporation is an organization formed as the result of a rental purchase agreement between R. N. McWilliams, party of the first part, and W. G. Sims of Greenwood, R. S. Tilghman of Hardy, T. E. Hill of Tillatoba and J. S. Hill of Hardy, parties of the second part, with J. P. Hill, Jr., of Clarksdale acting as agent in the transaction. By the agreement the four men secured the old 2,000-acre Burk Plantation, located in the Farrell neighborhood between the little levee and the main levee, and it will be devoted to the exclusive benefit of white farmers who have been brought in from the counties of Leflore, Yalabousha and Grenada. The place has 70-odd tenant houses, four residences, an artesian well, and is interlaced with good roads. It is all sandy loam "made" land, or land made by the deposits of the Mississippi River, and the contemplated improvements of the next year will make it one of the most attractive to settlement in the northern part of the state. At the present time efforts are being made to secure a rural service from Farrell and a pumping plant is being installed with a life of more than 40 feet and a capacity of 22,500 gallons per minute. This plant will take care of the seep water during the high stages of the Mississippi River and of excessive rainfalls. Owing to the fact that the settlement by white people was not definitely decided upon until late this year no effort will be made to build a school, dependence for education of more than 250 children being temporarily placed in the old school building, which served in years past. Four teachers, however, have been assigned to duty on the place and shortly following Jan. 1, 1924, it is believed that a better building will be provided.

A. J. Moseley of the Delta Mortgage & Trust Company of Clarksdale and probably the best known planter in the county, worked 12 families of white people last year and the year preceding on his Mackay Ranch plantation and will work 25 families on the same place next year. The land is sandy loam soil and the place has splendid educational facilities with a modern plantation school, good drainage and good roads. Mr. Moseley says: "I am highly pleased with this type of labor. They keep their houses in good condition and build up the land. They have organized a Sunday school and are in hearty co-operation with the work of the county agent, Mr. Steele, and the county home demonstration agent, Miss Jones."

Urging More White Labor.

Garner Johnson, one of the largest property holders of the Roundaway neighborhood, worked 17 white families last year and will work the same number this year. He declares the labor is entirely satisfactory and he is encouraging other planters to adopt the white settler plan. The Garner Johnson plantation is located within easy reach of the Sunflower Consolidated School, a brick veneer building with four class rooms and an auditorium, a teachers' home and supplied with artesian water. The school faculty includes five teachers and during the coming year the school expects to take some of the honors at the county meet between the schools of the county for literary and athletic supremacy.

The Bobo brothers of Lyon, C. C. and Barry K. Bobo, have entered into contracts through which they expect to secure 35 or 36 families next year on their Belleview plantation, and about a dozen families on their Webb place. Both of these places, however, are located in Quitman County, near the Coahoma County line.

E. J. Mullens of Clarksdale, owner of several thousand acres of land in this immediate neighborhood, "has not yet contracted for white labor for the new year, but will do so within a very few weeks, probably about Nov. 1."

Edwin Bramlett, who owns and farms about 2,000 acres in the immediate Clarksdale territory, has already rented about one-half of his place to Italian labor.

W. J. Lacy of Lyon, the president of the Delta Pure Seed Association, has not contracted for white labor and does not think he will do so this year. He is, however, very favorable to the introduction of the white farm tenant, but declares that his place is not equipped so that he can take care of white people this year as he would have to put them in with negroes, a situation that "wouldn't work." Dr. Lacy holds the same view that is held by many of the other planters who will work negroes next year entirely. Scores of them when asked by a Commercial Appeal correspondent whether or not they would use white people, declare that they were not in position to use this class of labor next year, but that they intended to get in such position as soon as possible and unless the negro began to show signs of giving that quality of labor that could be reasonably expected of him that he would soon be replaced.

Employing Black Tenants

Among those who will have all black tenants are the Ashton Land Company of Clarksdale, King and Anderson of Dickerson, H. H. Hopson of Clarksdale, R. W. McWilliams of Humber, J. H. Sherard of Sherard, W. B. Nichols of Clarksdale and Rich, Van Nichols of Rich, Henry Allen and W. T. Allen of Lyon, Mrs. W. H. Stovall of Stovall, John McAllister of Lula, J. J. Myers of Mattson, J. W. Lawler of Dublin, J. T. Farguson of Clover Hill, J. W. Cutrer of Clarksdale, A. J. Simmons of Clarksdale, Chism Brothers of Friar Point, John McAllister of Lula and Tom Wilsford of Rich.

Logan and Williams of Friar Point will work 500 acres with white labor, or about 25 families, and John McKee and Tom Gibson, also of the Friar Point neighborhood, will work some white farm labor. John E. Montoy of Coahoma will use a few families.

There are scores of owners of small plots, both residents and nonresidents, who have rented their holdings to white people on the share basis and for cash rent.

Smith and Lombard of Hillhouse, one of the largest farming firms in this section, have entered into contracts for white labor on their Tallyho plantation, about 900 acres of land, part of which lies in Coahoma County and part in Bolivar County. This place is within reach of the consolidated school at Gunnison, has gravel roads and an artesian well, centrally located, or within one mile of the majority of the tenant houses. Mr. Lombard, the junior member of the firm, states that they worked a few families of white people last year and found them all right and entirely satisfactory. "We are improving their houses by furnishing the materials and they themselves do the work. They are aiding us in improvement."

There has long been comment with regard to the Delta and the south generally that the principal drawback to development lay in the fact that the vast fertile lands of the country were in the hands of a few people and that until these lands were split up and small farmers were brought in that progress would be slow. It now appears that these theories are to be given a fair test in this section of the Delta.

An outstanding example of the rewards that Coahoma County offers to thrift and energy is to be seen in the case of John Crosby, formerly of Panola County and now located on the Logan and Williams plantation in the neighborhood of Friar Point. In the fall of 1920 Mr. Crosby came to this county with a wife, seven children and a debt of $380. Today he does not owe any money whatsoever, has more than $2,000 in the bank and owns a Ford automobile. His children take a leading part in the activities of the Friar Point Consolidated School, two of his boys being members of the football and basket ball teams. All members of the family are regular attendants at the Sunday school and church. He has made three crops on the share basis. He raises chickens and vegetables for his own consumption and has a generous surplus which he sells.

School Facilities Improved.

As rapidly as the need develops educational facilities are being provided in all parts of the county. At present there are four consolidated schools, one at Friar Point, one at Jonestown, one between Lula and Rich and one in the Sunflower neighborhood. These schools were built at a cost of approximately $225,000 and serve two-fifths of the entire county. School trucks are furnished to bring the children in to the schools and in addition five trucks are run to the Clarksdale separate district, these taking care of the children within a radius of five miles and in some few instances as far is 15 miles. The Clarksdale public schools, the Oakhurst, Elizabeth G. Dorr and Eliza Clark, were built at a cost of approximately $250,000 for the buildings alone and there are somewhere in the neighborhood of $100,000 of improvements. In addition to these consolidated schools there are 17 plantation or strictly rural schools.

Hard-surfaced roads and consolidated schools go hand in hand, as the former is essential to the success of the latter and these roads are now being built into sections not formerly touched by improved highways.

There are 45 teachers in the white schools of the county and 10 in the schools of Clarksdale. There are 750 children attending the schools in the county, against 50 last year, and 1,000 in the Clarksdale schools, about 200 of this number being from the rural sections.

WHITE FARMERS COMING.

Coahoma County Absorbing Newcomers to Replace Negroes.

The Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Dec. 6.—Secretary Barbee of the Chamber of Commerce reports that his office is facing rather an embarrassing situation in that they are daily receiving applications for places on farms by white people, who are coming into this county from other sections, and no places can be found for them.

10-7-23

Several months ago the Chamber of Commerce extensively advertised the merit of Coahoma County in an effort to induce white farm labor to come in, as an effort to combat the exodus of the negroes. This advertisement has brought an unexpectedly heavy response. It is conservatively estimated that the Chamber of Commerce has been directly instrumental in placing between 225 and 250 families and hundreds of others have been placed through other channels.

WHITES REPLACE NEGROES

School Needed to Accommodate Children of New Farmers.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Nov. 17.—Evidence of the influx of white settlers into Coahoma County and of the exodus of the negroes to the north is to be seen in two reports made here today by County Superintendent of Education P. F. Williams. He stated this morning that there were now 21 families of white people in the Burk Landing neighborhood and that 19 wagon loads of white farmers were en route to that section from Yalobusha County. The people are said to have camped at Wright & Webb and are expected to reach this county some time today. They are all from Roseboom. There are 24 families of white farmers on the J. F. Bramlett plantation, a few miles outside of Clarksdale, these having come in within the past few weeks. As is generally known, the reports on school plans are made in August, and, owing to the fact that it was not known before that time that the white people would be on the Bramlett place, no school facilities have been provided for the children. However Supt. Williams has made application to State Superintendent of Education W. F. Bond for a special permit to open a school in that neighborhood.

With regard to the evidence of the negro movement, Supt. Williams further states that four of the negro school teachers of the county had brought in their registers and had declared that there were no negro children in their school districts to be taught, these districts being Wildwood, near Jonestown; Ward Lake, McDaniels Place, near Dublin and half way between the Hopson place and Belleview.

NEGRO INVESTIGATORS GIVE DELTA FARMS O. K.

Came From Chicago Disguised As Farm Laborers.

"' Two educated Chicago negro investigators who went to Deeson, Miss., disguised as farm laborers when the Illinois Central Railroad, acting in conjunction with the Delta Farms Company, brought back 32 families on Monday, returned to Memphis ye sterday. They went to obtain first hand information of the treatment of the negroes on southern plantations.. "

"'In their report the investigators say:

"'We presented ourselves as 'plantation workers' and were accepted in company with other plantation workers for work in Mississippi."

"The train left Chicago at 6:15 p. m Sunday. We simply went to get a lin on conditions and see if any noticeable mistreatment was being accorded members of our group on the plantation which we visited.

"Special arrangements on the train had been provided for "our return to the south." Before leaving Chicago we were given food, candies, bananas, etc.

"The first thing that attracted our attention was the absence of a guard to see that no one deserted the train.

" We were given breakfast upon our arrival at Memphis, the single representative of the planters having wired ahead and made preparations for us.

"At Memphis the agent asked if anyone desired to discontinue the trip from Chicago and said if so he would be given a ticket back to Chicago. All said they wished to continue the trip.

"We arrived at Deeson, Headquarters of one of the great Syndicate properties at 1:30 Monday, were carried over to one of the large plantation houses and given lunch. Then we went to the general offices and were tendered contracts. After listening to remarks by Mr. G. W. Harden, plantation manager, and after having secured copies of the proposed contracts, we revealed our identity. Imagine our surprise when they told us the company was glad to have our presence and we were at liberty to remain on the plantation and make any investigation and inquiry we deemed fit. And automobile was placed at our disposal and we rode over the 8,000 acre plantation and talked to many of the white employees and all the negro tenants, many of whom had been on the plantation for years. Mr. Harden impressed us by his fairness, his general interest in the comfort of our people and his general all-round business ability. We noticed that none of the white employes were in possession of blackjacks, bull whips or any of the things we had been told were commonly used by them and always in their possession. They impressed us by their fairness and utter lack of hostility towards the members of our racial group.

" After signing the contracts, the 32 families were given bedding and household goods in general and were comfortably in thir new homes.

"While at Deeson we were lodged of the colored supervisors of the plan- at the home of Willie Baldwin, one tation. He has been with the company for 13 years and besides being in com fortable financial circumstances i the owner of an automobile, horses cows, chickens, etc.

"On Tuesday we talked with many of the tenants all of whom were loud in praise of the general treatment ac corded them.

"With reference to the contract we noticed that the company agrees to furnish comfortable homes, provisions and clothing, etc., until the crop shall have been gathered, to maintain schools and churches and necessary equipment therefor and that in purchasing provisions an itemized statement will be given with each purchase and that complete settlements will be made twice annually and that the tenants and company are to share equally in such moneys as are received from the sale of cotton.

"Of course you can understand we have no interest in the whole affair other than to obtain an accurate view of the situation. We know there are many negro famlies in the north who are, by training and experience adapted to farm work and for such we believe, after having made careful investigation that the Sydicate offers them fair and profitable inducements. It is no part of our duty to suggest or advise with reference to where one should locate, our duty is to acertain facts, but we are frank to state after a most painstaking investigation we believe if one intends to locate upon a plantation the Delta Farms Co., Deeson, Miss., offers an ideal opportunity.

The negro investigators are J. W. Brown. 3214 Rhodes Avenue, Chicago, representing the Negro World, and F. J. Smith 108 West Forty-seventh Street, Chicago, representing Chicago interests.

Agriculture—1923.
Labor Conditions.

Illinois.

CHICAGO, ILL. PRAIRIE FARMER
JUNE, 1923

The Negro Labor Question

The South's answer to the exodus of the negro laborer to other states lies in "increased production per man through better machinery." This phrase is taken from the sub-title of an article on "Immigration—or Machinery" in a recent issue of the McGraw-Hill Industrial Letter. The negro problem is an interior one of a somewhat similar nature to the one discussed in the industrial letter referred to.

Southerners in the past have chosen the course of least resistance. The negro has been with them and he has been useful and cheap—but of questionable economy. It will now be discovered that he is not indispensable and we feel very sure that in a few years when the South may have been forced to take to mechanical methods of reducing the labor cost—that the change will be for the best interests of all concerned, white and black.

Along agricultural and horticultural pursuits the Southern employer in being irritated into the use of machinery to replace the negro, who has gone where he supposes work easier and money more plentiful, will find that he can increase production at less cost.

A great many of the negroes, having been disillusionized, will wander back. Many of them will have learned a lesson from the change and will be the better for it. But—and here is the gist of our belief—in obtaining increased production through better machinery, there will be lots of work of a different nature available for the negro and he will be more satisfied with conditions in the future than he has been in the past, and while all unconscious of his part in this improvement he will be responsible for it. Looking at the whole matter from a long-distance viewpoint we cannot but believe that much good will result from the temporary embarrassment the South is undergoing because her negroes have the wonderlust.

Not long ago the writer saw twelve negroes doing work indifferently that a machine with three of them could have accomplished very efficiently. Use of a machine would have necessitated increased production, perhaps, but the other nine negroes could have been busy producing, and because of the machine the owner of it could have afforded higher wages than the negroes were getting at the work they were doing, for the work they might have been doing, if he had been a little more up-to-date. At the same time in the same section we heard rumors of a shortage of labor because so many of the negroes were leaving for greener fields.

The cotton industry may be hurt in the South for a while but there will be found a way out of this problem. In cultivating, the tractor can be brought into play. The adoption of better packing methods will release some labor for the work of harvesting for which machinery is not available. In all lines of agricultural and horticultural endeavor better care will be taken in producing and handling. Shiftess methods will be avoided and, best of all, the negro—especially those who come back—will have to be less shiftless in order to compete with the machine that has replaced him.

Just now it's an ill wind, but maybe it's blowing in a good direction.

Agriculture—1923
Labor Conditions
Georgia.

McCord's Bulletin

Atlanta, Ga.

THE CALL OF THE FARM.

A want ad for workers at a certain business in the city recently brought an army of applicants from farming districts that have suffered, more or less, from the inroads of the boll-weevil and other causes.

This tendency to "pull up stakes" and leave the farms is being variously commented on by influential newspapers throughout the country.

Discussing it as it affects Georgia, the Albany (Ga.) Herald has this to say— 1/14/23

"More and more do the signs accumulate that the insistent call of the times is 'back to the farm.' Narrower and narrower grows the excess of our agricultural production over consumption. More and more do economists who study the problem wonder how much longer we can be a prosperous nation under these conditions.

"Agriculture is and ever has been the basis of our prosperity, and it must continue so to be."

And this timely word is addressed particularly to the young men who are the hope of the agricultural population—

"Consider the farm—the farm of the future, and consider well before you turn your back upon it in favor of something that will make you a city dweller. For the cities are more and more crowded as the years fly by, competition in them is keener, and in many things they have very much less to offer than the farm."

The old story of the modern Prodigal Son who left the city and returned to the friendly, all-supplying farm, has application here—

"Dad," he said, "I've come home to die."

"No, you haven't," was the reply. "You've come home to eat!"

And that is about the way to look at it—to the sheltering arms of the old home where peace and plenty abide and where work, well and wisely done, is therefore sure of being amply rewarded.

If the farm has its discouragements, the city also has them in far greater measure; and the improved farm, with present advanced facilities for production and pleasurable enjoyment, is by no means behind the city in keeping pace with the times.

Georgia farm land produced 60 per cent of its value in 1919, according to the census.

Only one of the great grain States—Ohio—produced as much as 30 per cent of farm values. The others turned out from 16½ to 27½ per cent.

This means that a farmer in Georgia can get a larger return on his capital than a western farmer can.

Here is an economic gravity tending to send men and money Southward.

The Negro is entitled to a square deal and should be treated with all due consideration, but if he leaves us, somebody will take his place. The opportunity is too great to remain long neglected.

The Georgia farmer's difficulties at present are very great, but will be overcome in time, and when they are, agriculture in this State will be on a sounder and more prosperous basis than ever.

H. Y. McCORD.

Mr. H. Y. McCord, a well known and successful business man of Atlanta, issues a weekly bulletin entitled McCord's Bulletin. In this bulletin Mr. McCord reviews the economic conditions of the South, and in his bulletin of May 10th he made reference to the migration of the Negro to the North as the movement affects the economic welfare of the South. But, Mr. McCord, like most white men who discuss any question affecting the Negro economically or otherwise, fastens the burden of responsibility upon the Negro's shoulder. The gentleman reminds us very much of a fellow on his job and has another job offered him equally as good or better. He becomes indifferent about his job, because he feels that if he loses his present job that he has another equally as good. Therefore, he ignores the advice Booker T. Washington announced to his race at the Atlanta Exposition in 1895, to "Let down your buckets where you are."

Mr. McCord remarks in his bulletin that "The Negro is entitled to a square deal and should be treated with all due consideration, but if he leaves us, somebody will take his place. The opportunity is too great to remain long neglected."

If Mr. McCord and other captains like himself—farmers and manufacturers would take a dose of Mr. Washington's advice and "Let their buckets down where they are" by extending to the Negro in practice, a square deal—give him a living wage, comfortable and sanitary homes to live in, ample and adequate school facilities, protection to life, property and enjoyment of happiness, the Negro would remain in the South perfectly contented and become a permanent economic asset. But, Mr. McCord is like the fellow with his eye on two jobs—if he loses one, he has another. Mr. McCord's position is, "If the Negro goes, we will get somebody else to take his place. The opportunity is too great to remain long neglected.

But, he reckons without his host—he gambles on uncertainties. If the Negro is forced out of the economic equation of the South by reason of the miserly and unpatriotic treatment that he is now fleeing from, it is not recorded that Mr. McCord and his school of thinking can substitute any other people as well fitted for farm and unskilled labor as the Negro. The effort will be purely speculative or experimental. The Negro is peculiarly fitted for the Southern climate and the agricultural and unskilled work in the South, and there are no foreigners anywhere in Europe or Asia that the white man can successfully substitute to take the place of the black man on the farm and other work in the South that the Negro has been doing for three hundred years; and it behooves the McCords to take Mr. Washington's advice: "Let down your buckets where you are," and make out of the Negro the economic factor, the best laboring man in the world.

The European immigrant is not a permanent fixture in American life. In fact, he is not an asset—he is a liability. He comes to this country to better his conditions—to make money—his one incentive is to make considerable money and then return home to enjoy himself and live comfortably in his native land. He adds nothing to the creative value of our country. He lives miserly here. He does not assimilate among our people. He never accepts our religion, customs or education. He remains a foreigner. He collects his money, buys postal saving certificates, sends it to his motherland, and as soon as he accumulates a little competency, he returns to his native land—sends others of his kith and kin to our shores to gather in the shekels and send them back to the land of their fathers.

What we want in this country, and what we must have, if we would build up a permanent class of laboring men throughout America, is a man who is an American citizen, or who hopes to become one as soon as the law will permit. A man who divorces himself from the place of his birth and swears allegiance to Old Glory—who makes his money in this country—invests it here in a home, in a farm or in some business with a view of providing work for others to do. That is the class of people that America wants. We want our farms filled with this class of men and women—our forests felled by them—our mines worked by them—our railroads built by this class of patriotic Americans. In fact, our banks, our factories and every line of American industry built up, owned and worked by Americans. It matters not whether they were born here or naturalized—we want the first allegiance to the flag—we want one hundred per cent Americanism. And the Negro, in spite of his handicaps and the restrictions and limitations thrown around him, measures nearest up to the American standard of working men than any class of people on the globe. All he wants is encouragement. He does not want alms, but opportunity to make an honest living and to have an equal chance before the law. He wants to know that he lives in a law abiding country under a flag that protects him—furnishes him work and an opportunity every day to better his conditions. He wants to serve God according to his conscience—educate his children according to American ideals and wants a government by the consent of the governed. Give him churches, schools, societies and work. In fact, give him social justice. Give him the vote that he may protect his home.

This is what a square deal means, Mr. McCord. Quit theorizing about he is entitled to a square deal and should be treated with all due consideration. Say that he shall have a square deal and due consideration. Say right here in Atlanta that the Negro child shall have every educational facility that the white child has—a Tech High School, a Commercial High School, a Girls' High School, a Boys' High School, a Boys' Junior High School, military training, parks, public playgrounds, swimming pools, good streets, sanitary facilities, police protection, competent school teachers, humane treatment on the street cars, elevators and on the railroads. Do not talk about it—do not theorize any more

about it, but put your theory into practical experience. Take care of the Negro—become interested in him. You have not fully realized to what extent and how far-reaching his migration to the North will extend. If you could fully realize the impossibility and the impracticability of trying to substitute a motley gang of untrained foreigners for the Negro's service in this country, you would join with the Manufacturers' Association which declared a few days ago that some remedy ought to be suggested to stop migration.

But, let the Independent advise you and all white folk, that you can not stop migration or settle any of the problems that the Negro enters into as a factor, by talking among yourselves about it. You have got to talk to the Negro—talk to him and quit talking about him. You must ask him his advice. Ask him what is the trouble and what is the remedy. If he has a grievance, ask him to state it, and then get busy applying the remedy. We can get together here and mutually help one

South than anywhere else. The white folk can not stop it by meeti conventions and passing resolutions, and white editors write insi and misleading editorials. We must get together—have heart to h talks, swap views and ideas and put our views, ideas and resoluti into concrete action. The element of migration and every other eleme entering into the Negro problems, can be solved to the mutual benefi and advantage of the South, if the white men will make up their minds that they are going to help the Negro to better himself by giving him work to do—protection of the law. Talk to him and he will tell you

COLUMBUS, GA.

DEC 10 1923

SUMTER PLANNING TO SUBSTITUTE WHITES FOR NEGRO TENANTS

Tennessee Farmers Desire To Locate Here And Develop Agricultural Lands

LETTER EXPRESSES WISH

Negro Exodus To Be Checkmated By Bringing In White Farmers Into County

That an influx of Tennessee tenants to Georgia is contemplated and that Sumter county citizens are ready to receive them, is shown in a letter received by Frank Webb, according to the opinion of Americus men of prominence.

The letter is from P. H. Hogue, former Sumter county resident, who lived where the Thalean school now stands and who moved to Tennessee and requests Mr. Webb to locate a home for him and two other Tennessee families who also want to come to Georgia.

Mr. Hogue is said to be energetic and honest, and wishes to communicate with persons who would like to have a tenant.

With the leaving of the negro for the North, Sumter county land holers have been face to face with the problem of obtaining farm labor. The letter has been received as an indication of the attitude of persons from other states, and efforts will be made to interest others in Sumter county locations, it has been stated.

Many prominent business men of Americus will welcome the opportunity to place white tenants on their farms, and the communication shows that the "eyes of the world are on Sumter county," citizens state.

Bring White Tenants Into Sumter County To Replace Negroes

Americus, Ga., December 11.—(Special.)—Sumter county farmers who lost hundreds of negro tenants during the past year, are planning to replace these with white persons, and have already a number of families located who will emigrate here at an early date to engage in agricultural pursuits. Splendid rural consolidated schools throughout the county have proved a material inducement to farmers seeking new locations, and three families will move here soon from Tennessee to occupy farms in Thalean community. These families will be brought here through the instrumentality of P. H. Hogue, a former Sumter county resident, and farms will be secured for them by Frank Webb, a large land owner. It is asserted that modern farming machinery can be used much more profitably with white tenants than with the negro help heretofore used in the operation of Sumter's farms and a number of landlords will cooperate in the effort to bring new white settlers into this community.

GEORGIA FARMERS AT WORK.

MR. HARRY STILLWELL EDWARDS, in the Atlanta Journal, strikes a note of optimism in regard to the activity in farming operations in Georgia at the present time, in the course of which he says:

"The writer has been traveling around Georgia 'right sharp,' as the country folks say, and has been utterly amazed at the condition of the land being prepared for crops or already planted. Not in his lifetime has he seen land in better shape, and most of this work, it appeared, had been done by white men with tractors or by plow hands led by a white man. It is true that a great deal of Georgia land is lying out, but that is not an unmixed evil. The land that lies out is really at interest, since it rests and gains and, as a rule, and Georgia lands, as a rule, need rest either in toto or through rotation of crops. Those who stand on the corners of city and village streets and talk hard times and the disappearing negro are folding their hands across their tummies preparatory to the final plunge to oblivion."

Agriculture—1923
Labor Conditions.

North Carolina.

Farm Tenancy Is Declared Greatest Curse of South

The Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta Ga.

BY LOUIS GRAVES.

Chapel Hill, N. C., January 29.—(Special.)—"Farm tenancy is the course of the south and we shall never have a solid civilization until we solve this problem," said James A. Holloman, political editor of the Atlanta Constitution, in an address before the North Carolina club at the university here tonight. He gave figures showing the extent of tenancy and declared that drastic legislation was the only solution. 1-30-1923

"People may talk of moral suasion and it sounds well, but it is nothing but talk. And the creation of farm loan banks does not improve the situation much. That helps only the man with land as collateral. The tenant gets no benefit whatever from it.

"Hundreds of thousands of people here in North Carolina are landless and the same condition prevails in Georgia and elsewhere in the south. This is not merely serious, it is alarming. Good citizenship is at the basis of good civilization, and no state can be said to have a foundation of good citizenship when so many of its people are landless.

Best Means of Relief.

"We have got to get at it by legislation. The best means of relief seems to be a federal revolving fund to be loaned to those who want to acquire land by development. It is a matter of course that the loans must be safeguarded properly. Not only will the character of borrowers figure in the transaction, but there will be adequate security in the transaction, but there will be adequate security in the form of houses, equipment and crops. It is not a fly-by-night proposition, [illegible] the soundest sort of business investment."

Hollomon, who is a native of Carolina and began his newscareer on the News and Ob[illegible] in Raleigh, spent the day here. spoke to the Journalism class early in the morning on "practical newspaper making," and to the whole student body during the chapel period on "Congress From the Press Gallery."

His topic at the meeting of the North Carolina club tonight was "The Tax Systems of the Southeastern States and Their Bearing Upon the Economic Problems of the People."

He was the guest of honor last night at a buffet supper attended by the editors in chief and the business managers of the student publications and by several members of the faculty.

Hits Georgia Tax System.

In his talk tonight he criticized severely the taxation system in Georgia. He thinks the ancient ad valorem basis a thoroughgoing evil.

"In Georgia I hope to see property classified, with a rate differential, in absolute fairness to all classes of property. Then with a mild income levy but not a levy on incomes from property otherwise taxed. A system of fair distribution should be evolved.

"We should by all means seek to reach unimproved property held for speculative purposes. If a man is holding land idle either in city or country we should see that the assessment is based upon the price which he demands for it.

"There should be lower rates on improved than upon unimproved properties, and only equities should be assessed. That is, the man of small means owning the title to a house with two-thirds of it mortgaged should be compelled to pay taxes only upon the third he actually owns."

Hits Exempt Securities.

Mr. Hollomon delivered an attack upon the issuance of tax exempt securities.

"It is inexcusable," he said. "There is a proposed constitutional amendment now pending in congress to prohibit a continuance of this economic and social sin, and that is my excuse for referring to it tonight. There are between ten and fifteen billions of state and municipal tax free bonds in existence and three billions of United States bonds totally exempt. In addition there are about eighteen billions of United States bonds containing certain tax exempt privileges.

"These securities afford a complete haven of refuge to wealthy men seeking to escape taxation. Millions upon millions of dollars are going into these bonds whereas the available money for farm loans, for industrial stock issues, for promoting enterprise and upbuilding community interests, is so destricted and has such a high interest rate that a hardship is worked upon every line of trade and industry. This strikes unmistakably and forcibly at every hearthstone. Every individual is taxed ,either directly or indirectly, to meet the enormous deficit in government revenues created by tax immunities, enjoyed by those who could bear the tax burden most easily."

Situation in Georgia.

Speaking specifically of Georgia, Mr. Hollomon said:

"Enemies of the uniform property tax have declared that it has thrown the burden of taxation upon the farmer, whose lands are visible, and unwillingly given immunity to tax liars whose securities are invisible. That is true in too many instances. It is true in my adopted state of Georgia where the ad valorem system has fallen down, not, however, because of the system in general, but because of the broken vehicle that the statutes have provided for it.

"The greatest problem, in Georgia today is the raising of sufficient revenue to meet the demands of state administration, and to provide adequately for the support and maintenance of her higher educational institutions and her elementary schools.

"It is a mistake to think that in order to increase the revenues taxes must be increased. It is possible materially to reduce the tax burdens upon the people and yet increase the state's gross income. The answer is contained in the word distribution.

Many People Immune.

"There are thousands of people in Georgia who are absolutely immune from taxation except possibly the capitation taxes, and tens of thousands of others who are paying less taxes than the letter or the spirit of the laws require. There are tens of thousands of others who are paying more than they fairly should pay on a fair basis of equalization. The provision of the constitution that land should be assessed at a reasonable cash value is ignored. The inequalities in assessment constitute a flagrant injustice. The antiquated system in force in Georgia does not bring intangible property upon the books. As to the thousands of citizens who are today immune these can be reached only by a graduated levy on net incomes.

"Where the property tax is supplemented by a net income tax, property should be absolved from double taxation, and the exemption should be sufficient to prevent the infliction of hardships upon the wage earner."

Praises University.

Mr. Hollomon went over the university grounds and examined the new buildings. He expressed great admiration for the liberality with which North Carolina was supporting its institutions. The university has received $460,000 a year from the legislature for the last two years and the budget commission has recommended an annual appropriation of about $650,000 for the next two years. Mr. Hollomon asked many questions about the university's building program. He learned that a two-year building fund of a million and a half dollars had just been put into new structures, and that the budget commissions had recommended to the legislature now in session a fund of $1,600,000 for more construction between now and 1925.

More than anything else he saw in North Carolina, Mr. Hollomon said he admired the roads most. He saw the concrete and asphalt highways finished and under construction, and said that the most pressing task now ahead for Georgia was to devise a revenue raising system that would enable her to embark upon a similar road building program. The sentiment there for good roads was growing rapidly, he said, and was bound to prevail in the end. The only question being how soon Georgia would get started on a state road system.